THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
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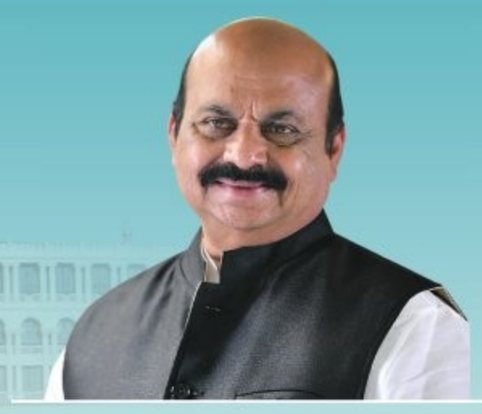
IED expert among 4 militants killed in J&K

Four militants, including an IED expert, were killed in twin encounters with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. While two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed in Shopian district, two Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind ultras were gunned down in Pulwama district. The police identified the two ultras as Sajad Ahmad Chak and Raja Basit Yaqoob, both categorised terrorists linked with LeT. *PTI*

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA



Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Progressive Steps for the comprehensive development of North Karnataka.

Statues of Kitturu Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna to be installed

The Government has decided to install statues of Kitturu Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna in the premises of Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi.

The Government is committed to the all-round development of North Karnataka. In the cabinet meeting held in Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi, administrative approval was granted to many development projects to the tune of **Rs. 2,398.45 crore**.

Laying of New Railway line: Dharwad-Kittur-Belagavi (73 km)

Administrative approval was accorded to lay the new railway line between Dharwad-Kittur-Belagavi (73 km) at a cost of Rs. 927.40 crore.

Grant of Land for Industrial Purpose

It was decided to grant 24 acres 21 guntas of government land in Talabalu village of Kukanuru Taluk in Koppala District to Aequs SEZ Private Limited instead of a total of 26 acres 20 guntas of agricultural land under various survey numbers in the same village for industrial purpose

Drinking Water Projects

Administrative approval was given to revised estimates of a total of Rs.381.87 crore to drinking water projects in Surapura, Shahapura and Tavaregera cities being executed by Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Sewage Board.

Encouragement to Grape Growers: Reconstitution of 'Karnataka Wine Board' as 'Karnataka Grape and Wine Board'

Presently, Karnataka is producing 6.4 lakh metric tonnes of various types of grapes. The above decision has been taken for the sake of value addition of grape crop market and to encourage grape growers.

Improvement of the Financial Condition of Hubli Electricity Supply Company

In order to improve the financial condition of the Hubli Electricity Supply Company, it was decided to restructure the loan given to it and to convert the interest-free loans lent to it into share capital.

Irrigation Facility for 3,150 hectares in Kalaburagi District

Administrative approval was given to Yaddalli Lift Irrigation and Ternalli Lift Irrigation Projects that provide irrigation facility to a region of 3,150 hectares by lifting water from Kaagina river in Sedam Taluk of Kalaburagi District at a cost of Rs.143.8 crore.

Raja Lakhamagouda Udyanakashi

Approval was given to the project to construct Raja Lakhamagouda Udyanakashi near Hidakal dam of Belagavi District estimated to cost about Rs.147.14 crore.

Multi-village Drinking Water Projects: Solution to the Drinking Water Shortage

Administrative approval was granted to a multi-village drinking water project that will cover 285 villages (291 residential colonies) of Savanur, Shiggaon, Hanagal and Haveri Taluks of Haveri District. The project is estimated to cost about 645 crore and will be implemented on DBOT basis.

A multi-village drinking water project that supplies drinking water to 51 residential colonies in Byadagi, Ranebennuru, Hirekaruru and Haveri Taluks costing Rs.109.5 crores will be implemented on DBOT basis.

Sasaalatti-Shivalingeshwara Lift Irrigation Project

Approval was granted to a project to supply water to the catchment area from 63 km to 103 km of the Left bank canal of Ghataprabha by lifting water from Krishna river near Halingala village of Rabkavi-Banahatti Taluk of Bagalakote District at a cost of Rs.266 crore.

Modernisation of Alamatti Left Bank Canal

Administrative approval was granted to modernization works of Alamatti Left Bank canal from 0.00 km to 68.24 km (left incomplete), including canal network and distribution canal structure costing a total of Rs.75.41 crore.

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask
6 Feet
Follow Physical Distancing
Maintain Hand Hygiene

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Karnataka

E-Mail Id.- se.hdc@rediffmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
HIRAKUD HEAD WORKS & ADDITIONAL SPILLWAY CIRCLE, BURLA
"e" Procurement Notice

A-776 Bid Identification No.- HHW & ASC-02/2021-22

1. Name of the Work: **Building Project Work as per DTCN.**
2. Total No. of Works: **01 (One) No. work.**
3. Estimated Cost: **Rs. 507.56 Lakhs.**
4. Period of Completion: **12 (Twelve)** Calendar months
5. Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal: **11.00 A.M. of Dt. 29.12.2021 up to 5.00 P.M. of Dt. 27.01.2022**
6. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal: Up to **5.00 P.M.** of **Dt. 27.01.2022**
7. Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **Dt. 28.01.2022** at **11.30 A.M.** onwards.
8. Date of Opening of Financial Bid: To be informed later
9. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Tender : **Additional Chief Engineer, O/o the Additional Chief, Engineer Hirakud Head Works & Additional Spillway Circle, Burla, Sambalpur, PIN -768017**
10. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/- ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
HIRAKUD HEAD WORKS & ADDITIONAL SPILLWAY CIRCLE, BURLA OIPR- 32394/11/0005/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, STINDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No.Tender Online-RWCCESNG-26 of 2021-22, **Letter No 3725 / Dtd 23.12.2021**
0-1530
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : Road
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWC-CESNG-26 of 2021-22	28.12.2021 11:00 AM	17.01.2022 5:00 PM	15.01.2022 5:00 PM	19.01.2022 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh OIPR- 25133/11/0035/2122

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-TENDER NOTICE
NO. SA/A/RS/ED/OT/21-22/9, DATED 24/12/2021

Online tender are invited for the following work:

Tender No: **SA/A/RS/ED/OT/21-22/9, Date: 24/12/2021.**

Description of work: Works Contract for Sweeping, Scrapping of Floor area, Toilet Cleaning, Garden Maintenance, Loading of assorted Ferrous / Non Ferrous Scrap and Unloading at Railway Depot and Scrap Clearing at Wheel Lathe available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr.DEE/RS/ED.

Follow us on : twitter.com/@GMSRailway

कोर्ट नोटिस

न्यायालय
अवर न्यायाधीश प्रथम,
राँची।
मूल (बंटवारा) वाद संख्या-682 वर्ष 2017
संजय मोदी एवं अन्य.......................वादीगण
बनाम्
सुभाष कुमार मोदी एवं वगैरह..............प्रतिवादीगण
नोटिस बनाम:-
1.अरूण मालपानी, पति-स्व. प्रीति मालपानी
2.सरदेन्दु मालपानी, पुत्र-श्री अरूण मालपानी
3.दिव्या लाढ़ा, पुत्री-श्री अरूण मालपानी
सभी निवासी मालपानी भवन, 23 रेस कोर्स रोड, बैंगलोर, कर्नाटक-560001

आपलोगों को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त वादीगण ने आपलोगों के विरूद्ध उपरोक्त मुकदमा दायर किया है, जिसका नोटिस निबंधित डाक व्दारा आपलोगों को भेजा गया है, परन्तु आपलोग अभी तक मुकदमा में उपस्थित नहीं हुए है। मुकदमा की अगली तारीख **दिनांक 07.01.2022** माह.....वर्ष 2022 आपलोगों की उपस्थिति एवं जवाब दाखिल करने हेतु निर्धारित है। यदि आपलोगों को उपरोक्त मुकदमा मे अपना पक्ष रखना है तो स्वयं अथवा अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से मेरे न्यायालय मे उपरोक्त निर्धारित तिथि को सुबह 10.30 बजे रखें, अन्यथा आपके अनुपस्थिति में मुकदमा की सुनवाई एकपक्षीय कर ली जाएगी।

आज दिनांक 23rd माह दिसम्बर 2021 मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय के मुहर व्दारा जारी।

ह./- अवर न्यायाधीश, प्रथम

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, Shri. Sudheer Yalamati, Residing at #52, 2nd Main, BCC Layout, Attiguppe, Vijayanagara, Bangalore-40 Have lost his Original Sale Agreement document of Flat Located at boddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore-60 Flat No. 201, 2nd Floor, Wing C3 Block C, VBHC Palm heaven-2 Measuring Carpet Area 510.64 Sq.ft, Saleable Area 726.71, Document No. 8014/2018-19, Register in sub register office JP Nagar. The above said property registered in his name, the above Said original sale Agreement is Missed in Vijayanagara, any person who finds this documents please contact on the above address or to the nearest police station.

Sd/- S.V Chethana
Advocate & Notary Public
Govt. of India
Kagalipura Bangalore , Contact: 9071234016

THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
LIC Jeevan Mangal Building
No.4, Residency Road, opp Cash Pharmacy Bengaluru-560025

O.A 332/2018
BETWEEN
UNION BANK OF INDIA
APPLICANT.
AND
Mr. **ZAKIR HUSSAIN & ORS**
DEFENDANT.

Notice Issued to Defendant under Rule 23(Viii) of Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules of 1993 by way of paper Publication.

To:
1. **Mr. Zakir Hussain**
S/o S.M Muktiyar.
R/at No.110, 2nd Main Road, Kamalanagar, Bengaluru-560079.
2. **Ms. Nageena Nayeem**
W/o Mr. Zakir Hussain
R/at No.110, 2nd Main Road, Kamalanagar, Bengaluru-560079.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of debts due to Banks and Financial institution Act, 1993 against the above defendants for the recovery of sum of **Rs.49,17,486/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six only)** amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defence to show cause on: 04-01-2022 at 10.30 A.M. as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand the seal of the Tribunal on this 18-10-2021.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
BENGALURU

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा **Bank of Baroda** विजया बैंक VIJAYA BANK देना बैंक DENA BANK POWER OF

Regional Office - Bengaluru Central
5th Floor, Vijaya Towers, 41/2, M G Road, Trinity Circle, Bengaluru - 560001
Contact: 080-25011487, Email: recovery.blrcentral@bankofbaroda.co.in
ANNEXURE-E

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

"APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]"

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s	Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction Last Date for EM	Reserve Price EMD and Bid Increase amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection date & time
1	1) Mr.Nagaraj L, S/o.Lakappa No.87, Saptigiri Layout, 6th Cross, Doddabidirakallu, Nagasandra Post, Near HMT Layout, Bangalore-560075. 2)Mrs. Jyothi R, W/o.Mr.Nagaraj L No.87, Saptigiri Layout, 6th Cross, Doddabidirakallu, Nagasandra Post, Near HMT Layout, Bangalore-560075.	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Site No.87, present BBMP Katha NO.17/2/201/87 old Assessment No.17/2 subsequent Katha No.201, situated at Doddabidarakallu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now within the limits of BBMP. Measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 600 sq feet. And bounded on: On the East by: Remaining Eastern portion of site No.87 On the West by: Site No-88, On the North by: Site No.74, On the South by: Road	Rs. 27,52,075.02 (Rupees twenty seven lakh fifty two thousand seventy five and paise two only) as on31.03.2021 (plus interest from 01.09.2020 and cost and other charges)	29-01-2022 & From 02:00 AM to 06:00 PM 28.01.2022 till 06.00 PM	Rs. 39,86,000/- Rs. 3,98,600/- Rs. 25,000/- EMD amount to be credited to the following ac: A/c. No. 73920015181869 Name : SARFAESI AUCTION PROCEEDS IFSC CODE BARB0VJRCRO (5TH LETTER IS ZERO) Last Date of EMD Amount : 28/01/2022	constructive	With prior Appointment from Authorized officer
2	Smt. Anitha G D/o. Late C G Giridhar Rao, No. 190, 19th C Main Road, N Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560010 Mr. Vignesh S Shishir S/O Smt Anitha Giridhar Rao #190, 19th C Main Road, N Bloack Rajajinagar , Bangaloere-560010	EMDTD of all that piece and parcel of the immovable property (Residential Site) Sarakki 4th Phase (Dollars Project) bearing Site No. 41, now within the jurisdiction of BBMP and bearing Municipal No. PID No. 57-320-41 situated at 2nd Main Road, 4th Phase Dollars Layout, J P Nagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 18.30 meters, North to South 12.20 meters, and total measuring 223.26 Square Meters and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Property of BDA, North by: Site No. 42, South by: Site No. 40	Rs. 2,86,12,024/- (Rupees two crore eighty six lakh twelve thousand twenty four only) as on 31/01/2020868,84, plus interest from 31/01/2020 and cost and other charges	29-01-2022 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM 28.01.2022 till 06.00 PM	Rs 3,82,50,000/- Rs 38,25,000/- Rs 25000/- EMD amount to be credited to the following ac: A/c. No. 73920015181869 Name : SARFAESI AUCTION PROCEEDS IFSC CODE BARB0VJRCRO (5TH LETTER IS ZERO) Last Date of EMD Amount : 28/01/2022	Vacant Site	With prior Appointment from Authorized officer
3	Ms. Chaitra T D/o Thimmaraju, No.29, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Peenya 3rd Phase, Laggere, Bangalore - 560086 Mrs. Anjana Kumari W/o Thimmaraju, No.29, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Peenya 3rd Phase, Laggere, Bangalore - 560086 Karnataka Mr. Thimmaraju, S/o Gangaiah No.29, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Peenya 3rd Phase, Laggere, Bangalore - 560086	**SCHEDULE : Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No-1, Assessment No-142, Khata No-833, BBMP Khatha No – 142/1,2,3 situated at Laggere, Yeshwantapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore now known as Ganapathinagar, Laggere, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No-41, Peenya Industrial Area, measuring East to West 53 feet and North to South (10+60)/2 feet and bounded on East: Property No-18 & 19 of Sri S Krishna Prasad, West:30 feet Road, North: Site No-2 of Sri S Rama Prasad, South: Private Property **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No-2 & 3, Assessment No-142, Katha No-840, BBMP Katha No – 142/1,2,3 situated at Laggere, Yeshwantapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore now known as Ganapathinagar, Laggere, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No-41, Peenya Industrial Area, measuring 3180 Sq. Ft. and bounded on East: Property No-16 of Sri S Krishna Prasad, West: 30 Ft Road, North: 30 Ft Road, South: Site No-1	Rs.1,48,83,270.80 (Rupees one crore forty eight lakh eighty three thousand two hundred seventy and paise eighty only) as on 30.04.2021 (Plus further interest and other charges from 01.05.2021)	29-01-2022 and From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM 28.01.2022 till 06.00 PM	Rs 2,52,00,000/- Rs25,20,000/- Rs 25,000/- EMD amount to be credited to the following ac: A/c. No. 73920015181869 Name : SARFAESI AUCTION PROCEEDS IFSC CODE BARB0VJRCRO (5TH LETTER IS ZERO) Last Date and Time of Receipt of EMD Amount: 28/01/2022	Constructive	With Prior Appointment from Authorized officer
4	Mr. Dinesh S/o Jogu Poojary, Mrs. Smitha A Poojary W/o Dinesh Ninge Mane, Vakwadi Village, Kundapua Taluk, Udupi District, Karnataka-576257. Mr. Dinesh S/o Jogu Poojary, Mrs. Smitha A Poojary W/o Dinesh 64,Maruthi Nilaya, 1st floor, North face, VAS GKVK Layout, ALLASANDRA, BANGALORE 560065. Mr. Mahalinge Gowda H K S/o Kaveraiah No.95, 10th Main, Attur Layout, Bangalore-560064 Mahalinge Gowda, H.K. S/o Kaveraiah, M.Hosuru, Kasaba Hobli, Kunigal (Rural) Tumkur, Karnataka Pin - 576257	SCHEDULE A: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site Vakwadi Village of Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District-Kalavara Grama Panchayath Limit Mull Right, Sy No.65-52, Kissan Bhagayth, Extent 011, Assessment 1-05 (out of this land 0.10 cents is converted) and Sy No.65-34-NA-0-10 Acre and bounded on East: Sy No.65-28 & 65-27, West: Sy No.65-25, North: Sy No.65-26A, South: Sy No.65-20A1	Rs. 36,49,141.00 (Rupees thirty six lakh forty nine thousand one hundred forty one only) as on 31.03.2021 (Plus further interest and other charges from 01.01.2020)	29-01-2022 and From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM 28.01.2022 till 06.00 PM	Rs 79,40,000/- Rs 7,94,000/- Rs 25,000/- EMD amount to be credited to the following ac: A/c. No. 73920015181869 Name : SARFAESI AUCTION PROCEEDS IFSC CODE : BARB0VJRCRO (5TH LETTER IS ZERO) Last Date and Time of Receipt of EMD Amount: 28/01/2022	Constructive	With Prior Appointment from Authorized officer
5	Mrs. Ganga Lakshmi W/o Kumar T No.9/1, 6th Main Road, Sri Kanteshwara Nagar Layout, BBMP Ward No.10, Mahalakshmipura, Bangaloe-560086. Mr. Hanumantha K S/o Kumar T No.9/1, 6th Main Road, Sri Kanteshwara Nagar Layout, BBMP Ward No.10, Mahalakshmipura, Bangaloe-560086. Ms. Mamatha K D/o Kumar T No.9/1, 6th Main Road, Sri Kanteshwara Nagar Layout, BBMP Ward No.10, Mahalakshmipura, Bangaloe-560086. Prema K D/o Kumar T No.9/1, 6th Main Road, Sri Kanteshwara Nagar Layout, BBMP Ward No.10, Mahalakshmipura, Bangaloe-560086. Mrs. Sudha Anil W/o Dinesh R No.42, Link Road, Near Hotel Halli Mane, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003. Mr. Dinesh R S/o H Rajanna No.42, Link Road, Near Hotel Halli Mane, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003.	SCHEDULE A: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing New No.9/1, 6th Main Road, Sri Kanteshwara Nagar Layout, Mahalakshmipura, Bangalore-560086 in the limits of BBMP, Ward No.10, Mahalakshmipura, measuring East to west 15ft and North to South 37 feet Bounded on East by:Property N.98/36, West by Property No.35, North by Road and South by Channel and Road	Rs. 34,82,748.00 (Rupees Thirty four lakh eighty two thousand seven hundred forty eight only) as on 31.05.2021 (Plus further interest and other charges from 01.06.2021)	29-01-2022 and From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM 28.01.2022 till 06.00 PM	Rs 72,00,000 /- Rs 7,20,000/- Rs 25,000/- EMD amount to be credited to the following ac: A/c. No. 73920015181869 Name : SARFAESI AUCTION PROCEEDS IFSC CODE BARB0VJRCRO (5TH LETTER IS ZERO) Last Date and Time of Receipt of EMD Amount: 28/01/2022	Constructive	With Prior Appointment from Authorized officer
6	M/s. Dr. Shetty's Medical & Aesthetic Solutions Pvt Ltd., "Prestige Delta", 1st Floor, No.74, St. Marks Road, Residency Road, Bangalore-560001 **Guarantors:** Mr. Kamalakar Shetty, No.1A, Nitesh Mayfair, 31/1, Kasturba Road Cross, Near British library, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560001. Also at: C-6, 1st Floor, Devatha Plaza, Residency Road, Bangalore-560025. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Shetty No.1A, Nitesh Mayfair, 31/1, Kasturba Road Cross, Near British library, Lavelle Road, Bangalore-560001. Also at: C-6, 1st Floor, Devatha Plaza, Residency Road, Bangalore-560025. Mr. Aditya Shetty No.1A, Nitesh Mayfair, 31/1, Kasturba Road Cross, Near British library, Lavelle Road, Bangalore. Also at: C-6, 1st Floor, Devatha Plaza, Residency Road, Bangalore-560025.	All that piece and parcel of the Property MDTD of Immovable Residential; Property bearing Site No. F-52, In "EAGLETON-THE GOLF VILLAGE", and bearing Katha No.426/F-52 Situated in various Survay Numbers of Billakempanahalli, Shyanmangala and Banandur Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Tauk. Measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring area 2700 Sq feet. Property belonging to Dr. K Kamalakar Shetty, And Bounded by:- On the East by: Road West by: Site No.F-61 North by: C.A Park South by: Site No.F-51	Rs59,46,667.53/- As on 30.11.2021 and interest thereafter.	29-01-2022 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 1,08,00,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.10,80,000/- BID Increase Amount: Rs.25,000/- Last Date of EMD Amount : 28 /01 /2022	Physical	With prior Appointment from Authorized officer

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No. 080- 25011487 and+91-9380969285 & +91-7897366366

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 21.12.2021

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bengaluru Central

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients entered into agreement to sell in respect of Schedule property mentioned herein below from its lawful owner **SMT. SAVITHRI KUMAR**, aged about 64 years, W/o. Sri.N. Kumar, residing at No.1337, 1st H Main, 2nd Phase, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085. The said Owner has informed my client that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, claims, etc.

Any person or persons, Banks, Financial institutions etc., having any valid right, title interest or any claim over the Schedule Property or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claim/s within **14 days** from the date of this public notice with the undersigned, if no valid objections are received within the stipulated date, my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property and the schedule property is free from all claims and encumbrances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Site No.22, Old Katha No.219, New Katha No.804/219/22, formed in converted land bearing Sy.No.50/1, a layout known as **"NOBEL RESIDENCY"** converted for residential purposes vide conversion order No's.BDS/ALN/SR(S) 154/1995-96, Dt:02-03-1996, BDS/ALN/SR(S)155/1995-96, Dt:02-03-1996, BDS/ALN/SR(S)153/1995-96, Dt:02-03-1996, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, measuring East to West:40 feet and North to South:60 Feet, totally measuring 2400 Sq.Ft, Situated at Yelenehalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Now comes under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and bounded on:

East : Property No.23
West : Property No.21
North : Private property
South : Road.

SD/- **K.VENKATA SUDHEER,** ADVOCATE
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No. 02-05/C&LM/Pur/Tender-257/2291 **Raipur, Dated 24.12.2021**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed medical shops of Municipal area / Nagar Nigam area of Bhilai/ Durg/ Raipur/ Rajnandgaon for supply of Ethical branded Medicines for CSPTCL Dispensary, Bhilai-3.

Sl No	Tender Sp. No.	Description of work	E.M.D	Tentative Cost
1.	Tender-257	Supply of Ethical (Branded) Medicines for day to day requirement of CSPTCL Dispensary, Bhilai-3.	Rs 20,000/-	Rs 20.00 Lakh
Last Date & Time of Sale of Tender			13.01.2022	17:30 Hours
Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender			14.01.2022	15:00 Hours
Date & Time of Opening of Tender			14.01.2022	15:30 Hours

For all other details of NIT and terms & conditions , please visit our website- www.cspc.co.in/csptcl/tender/tendernotices/Tender_CSPTCL.htm

-Sd-
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (C&LM)
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Town Municipal Council, Belur. Hassan.
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_belur@yahoo.co.in,
townmunicipal.belur@gmail.com Phone No: 08177-222221
TMCB/JE/Tender-05/2021-22 Date: 16-12-2021

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible and interested suppliers for supplying the following items for Solid waste management under Swacch Bharath Mission and 15" Finance Grants. Sl.No.1)Name of Work and Indent Number: Supply of auto Tipper DMA/2021-22/IND 12553 Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs): 6.50 2)Supply of Plastic Bailing Machine DMA/2019-20/IND 9681/CALL-2 Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs): 11.94 3)Supply & installation of Weigh Bridge DMA/2019-20/IND 9680/CALL-3 Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs): 11.50 4)Supply of Shredding Machine DMA/2019-20/IND 9682/CALL-2 Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs): 25.57 5)Supply of Screening Machine (Two cover System) DMA/2021-22/IND 12584 Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs): 62.32 Last Date & Time to submit tender: 05.01.2022 5.30 P.M. Date & Time of Opening Time Tender/Techinal Bid: 07-01-2022 11.00 a.m For Details and Information to Submit Tender visit http://eproc.karnataka. goy in

Sd/- President, TMC, Belur. **Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC, Belur.**

[illegible]/578/2021–22

IDCOL ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

CAD-2486 **E-procurement notice**

Bid document No.: IDCOL/E-PROC/MIN/2526/2021; **dated 24.12.2021**

1	Work name	Diamond Core Drilling Work for Ampavalli Limestone Mine in Pottangi Tahasil of District-Koraput, Odisha - (through e-tendering)
2	Availability of tender documents on the e-tendering portal of Government of Odisha	Date: 28.12.2021; Time: 11:00 AM
3	Last date for sending queries to IDCOL, if any	Date: 03.01.2022; Time: 5:00 PM; queries may be sent by email to idcmining@yahoo.com
4	Bid Due Date	Date: 11.01.2022; Time 5:00 PM
5	Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid	Date: 12.01.2022; Time: 11:00 AM
6	Opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the Technically Qualified Bidders
7	Tender Paper Fee (non-refundable) including GST	Amount: INR 11,800/- (Rupees Eleven thousand eight hundred only) including GST @18% Payable online on the e-tender portal of Government of Odisha (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
8	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Amount: INR 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only) Payable online on the e-tender portal of Government of Odisha (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

All other details can be seen from the Tender Document available on the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha (www.tendersodisha.gov.in) and on the website of IDCOL(www.idcorissa.com). IDCOL reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Head (Geology) OIPR- 14074/11/0017/2122

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt. Shreevarna Keertan R/A No.406,Brigade Classic, Armugam Circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore -66. have changed my name from **SHREEVARNA KEERTAN** to **SHREEVARNA KEERTAN HEGDE** affidavit Dated 20/12/2021 Sworn Before Notary Sadananda R. Bhat Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Karan N Rao, residing at No 103, Gurukrupa, 1st Floor, Flat #101, 11th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore North 560003, do hereby state that Karan N will be now known as **Karan N Rao** vide affidavit dated 24th December 2021 sworn before Notary G. Dayananda, Malleshwaram, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kumari Ilaadevi Keertan Residing at No.17, KHB Colony Sirsi-581402 have changed my name from **ILAADEVI KEERTAN** to **ILAADEVI HEGDE** affidavit Dated 20/12/2021 Sworn Before Notary Sadananda R.Bhat Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Mukunda S.S, S/o Sreenivasa Murthy, aged 39 years and Bhargavi K.S, W/o. Mukunda S.S, aged about 31 years, both residing at No.1239, 1st Floor, 9th C Main, SBM Colony, Banashankari 1st Stage, Srinivasanagar, Bangalore-560050 have changed our minor daughter's name from '**SHRAVYA R**' to '**SHRAVYA BHARADWAJ**' vide affidavit dated 06-12-2021 Sworn before Advocate and Notary C.V.Earappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAYA LATHA**, spouse of R Balachandran Nair R/o Cherukara Veedu, Vada Code, Perumpazthoor Post Trivandrum District Kerala – 695126, have changed my name from **JAYA LATHA** to **JAYALATHA K S**, vide affidavit No. INKA90108469122443T at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

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grooms

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GROOM WANTED

KULALA : Meenam, Revathy, 27 yrs, 165 cm, Fair, B.E., Preparing for TNPSC Group I, II Competitive Exams, Seeking Educated Employed/Business Groom from same Community.

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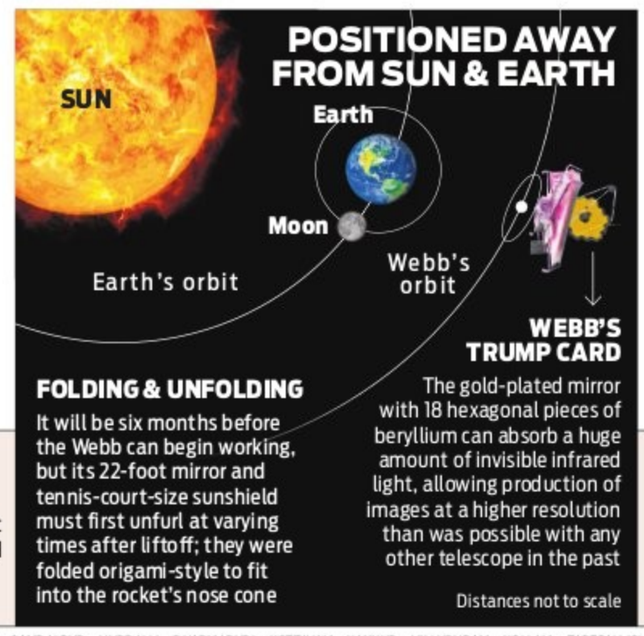
POSITIONED AWAY FROM SUN & EARTH
SUN
Earth
Moon
Earth's orbit
Webb's orbit
WEBB'S TRUMP CARD
The gold-plated mirror with 18 hexagonal pieces of beryllium can absorb a huge amount of invisible infrared light, allowing production of images at a higher resolution than was possible with any other telescope in the past
FOLDING & UNFOLDING
It will be six months before the Webb can begin working, but its 22-foot mirror and tennis-court-size sunshield must first unfurl at varying times after liftoff; they were folded origami-style to fit into the rocket's nose cone
Distances not to scale

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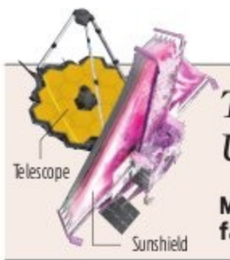

TELESCOPE THAT CAN REVEAL UNIVERSE'S ORIGINS ASCENDS

Most powerful space observatory ever built can peer into the farthest reaches of the cosmos, 13.8 billion light years away

FAINT, TWINKLING LIGHT FROM FIRST GALAXIES

Three decades and $10 billion in the making, the mammoth James Webb Space Telescope blasted off from Earth on Christmas, heading to a fixed orbit 1.5 million km away. The telescope has deep-space vision that senses infrared light coming from the first stars of the universe. Since the Sun can interfere with infrared detection, the Webb has a shield to reflect the heat | P14

344

PARTS OF WEBB TO UNFOLD REMOTELY. EVEN IF ONE FAILS, MISSION IS DOOMED

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Vaccine for 15-17 age group, booster for frontline staff

Additional shots also for 60+; regulator clears Covaxin for 12+ group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said those in the 15-17 age group will be eligible for vaccination beginning January 3. In his address to the nation, Modi said healthcare and frontline workers (estimated to be 3-4 crore) can get booster shots from January 10, adding that they may be at a higher risk of contracting Covid-19 in case there is an Omicron-driven surge in infections. Additionally, people aged 60 and above with co-morbidities will be eligible for booster shots, based on the advice of their doctors, he announced.

Earlier on Saturday, the Drug Controller General of India gave emergency use approval for Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for the 12-17 age group.

The decision came more than two months after an expert panel endorsed Covaxin for kids. However, the country's highest drug regulator has permitted the vaccine only for adolescents and not for kids under 12, as recommended by the subject expert committee on Covid-19 in October.

NATIONWIDE	DEC 24	DEC 25
Fresh cases	6,650	7,189
Recoveries	7,051	7,286
Deaths	374	387

KARNATAKA	DEC 24	DEC 25
Fresh cases	405	270
Recoveries	267	246
Deaths	4	4

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
December 24
59,53,621 doses
December 25
29,11,533 doses
TOTAL DOSES
1,41,32,78,598

In his address, Modi told people not to panic but to stay vigilant, citing conflicting data from several countries that are seeing a fresh wave of Covid-19 infections.

He also said that a nasal vaccine against Covid-19 is on the cards in India, apart from the world's first DNA vaccine (ZyCoV D by Zydus Cadila) against the coronavirus.

The announcement on booster doses for healthcare and frontline workers comes comes amid growing evidence of high breakthrough infections due to the Omicron variant.

Notably, the Prime Minister used the term "precaution dose" and not booster dose, as it is generally referred to. Modi said global experience shows that following all preventive measures at the personal level is a big weapon in fighting the coronavirus. He asked people to be alert and take all precautionary measures.

Right amount of vaccine

Covaxin has become the second vaccine, after Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV D, to be permitted for under-18 population group in India even though the country is yet to clearly spell out its policy on Covid vaccination for minors.

Officials in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation said that though the amount of Covaxin recommended for minors remains the same — 0.5 ml — as it is for adults and will be given as two doses 28 days apart, the vaccines could come in pre-filled syringes — instead of being taken out of vials.

This is to ensure that higher quantities are not administered by mistake as that could cause adverse effects. P9

VIRUS SPREAD

2 new clusters in K'taka as labs flooded with samples

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AHEAD of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's meeting with experts on Covid-19 on Sunday, in view of the rising cases, the state reported two more clusters at educational institutions.

At the Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College in Kolar, 33 students tested positive and the residential block has been declared a containment zone. In another instance, 26 students of the Atturu Jnanaganda Residential School near Kushalnagar in Kodagu district tested positive for Covid-19. The institution has been declared as a containment zone, according to health officials.

Meanwhile, seven new cases with the Omicron variant have been detected in Bengaluru. With the Centre directing Bengaluru and six other cities in different states to conduct whole genome sequencing of Covid-positive RT-PCR samples, more than 2,000 samples are awaiting analysis at different genome sequencing labs in Karnataka for the Omicron variant.

REPORTS: P5

22 farm unions form party to contest Punjab election

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

TWO weeks after ending their year-long protest against the farm laws, 22 Punjab-based farmers' unions on Saturday decided to float a joint front to contest the coming Assembly elections in the state.

The front, the Samyukt Samaj Morcha, will field candidates in all the 117 seats. An alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party was not ruled out.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, of which the 22 unions were a part during the agitation, said it will not float a political front as it was formed only for the issue of farmers.

Balbir Singh Rajewal, the president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union BKU (Rajewal), will head the new group.

Out of the 117 seats, 69 are in Malwa, 25 in Majha and 23 in Doaba. Barring 40 seats in urban and semi-urban belts, the new front could affect the electoral fortunes of other parties.

The farm unions in the new morcha that have a big following are Rajewal's group, BKU Kadian, BKU Doaba and BKU Mansa. They have a sizeable presence in the South Malwa, Doaba and Majha regions.

But the biggest farm union in Punjab, the BKU (Ugrahan), which has influence in 15 of the 23 districts in the state and claims a following of 3 lakh-4 lakh, mostly in the Malwa region, is not a part of the front.

"The cadres of the farm unions, whether they are contesting or not, will vote for the morcha," said political analyst Prof Jagrup Singh Sekhon.

Centre conspiring to bring back farm bills: Congress

New Delhi: A day after Union agriculture minister Naresh Singh Tomar said the government hasn't given up on farm reforms, the Congress on Saturday accused the Centre of hatching a conspiracy to bring back the three repealed farm laws after elections | P9

'Undernutrition leads to childhood diseases'

Childhood undernutrition is a major cause of child mortality in India, says Vishal R, Commissioner, Public Instruction, Government of Karnataka in an interview | P6

POLL PANEL TO MEET HEALTH SECY

Amid the rising concern over increase in Covid-19 cases in the country, the Election Commission will meet the Union Health Secretary on December 27 to discuss holding polls in five states including Uttar Pradesh. The poll panel will take a final call on the Assembly elections after an assessment of the Covid-19 situation with the Centre | P10

LOOKING AHEAD 2022 LOOKING BACK
FOOD SECURITY ENIGMA: CHILD MALNUTRITION HIGH DESPITE ECONOMIC GROWTH
P6

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THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 26/12/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Dakshinayna
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Margashira • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Sapthami 3.20 pm
Nakshatra: MUttharaphalguni 1.24 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pmm

WEATHER
MIN 14°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Decreasing cloudiness

Sunrise 6.39 am
Sunset 6.01 pm
Moonrise 12.00 pm
Moonset 11.52 pm

125 YEARS OF BLESSINGS

St Matthew's Church is a little-known heritage structure which has led generations of the faithful through life

INTERESTING FACTS

The church bell was cast in the Railway workshop, where the pews and clergy stalls were also made. The lectern was presented by Edith and Walter Newman in memory of their daughter, Doreen

The register records two occasions when the church was broken into and its property stolen

During the Christmas of 1917, young men from the Railway Quarters went around singing and collected

₹740

for the church

The pandemic popularised online worship among our visitors. Presently, online and offline worship are done simultaneously

R G Rajkumar, Secretary, St Matthew's Church

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

FOR the devout, Bengaluru's cosmopolitan culturescape provides various calm retreats. Many church spires have stood testimony to its tryst with the British Raj, with a few institutions dating bck centuries.

One such quaint, yet magnificent institution – St Matthew's Church -- tucked inside the MG Railway Colony on Magadi Road in Bengaluru, has enriched the lives of people, while also providing them a spiritual sanctuary during troubled times. This Protestant CSI church, which was consecrated on November 10, 1896, by the Bishop of Madras, is a part of Railway history in Bengaluru.

As one steps inside the 125-year-old church, which was started by the missionaries of the Church of England, a tranquil mood instantly sets in. An inscription on the stone at the altar reads: "In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and in honour of this apostle Saint Matthew. This foundation stone was laid by W. Lee Warner, Esq., British resident in Mysore, September 1895." This marks 16 years after the City Railway Station (now KSR Bengaluru City) was opened. Documents maintained by St Matthew's Church reveal that it was erected at a cost of Rs 4,800 to Rs 5,000 through public subscriptions. The Government of Mysore provided the land to be held jointly by the Bishop of Madras and the Archdeacon.

Prayer and Promise

Over all these years, the church has stood as a beacon of warmth, guidance and solace to its followers, who have been seeking its blessed light for generations. Church-goers reiterate the emotional bond they share with the church and the positive impact it has had on their lives. E Vijayan, a retired senior RTO officer, says: "I have been visiting this church for more than 30 years now. The best moments of my life were my visits to St Matthew's Church itself. Spirituality apart, the fellowship, brotherhood, and bonding it instilled in me, taught me so much."

"My earliest memory of the church was when I was four- or five-years-old. I am a third-generation member from my family, with my paternal grandfather J S Gideon being the first. My grandparents are members here since the 1940s. Growing up here meant learning Sunday school songs as kids and teenagers, nurturing ourselves spiritually through the word of God and enabling us to face the world as adults. The church is one big family and we all stand by each other, through thick and thin," says Ailwyn Gideon, a construction consultant.

Likewise, Priscilla Dawson, a member of the Congregation Committee, adds, "This is where my children were baptised and learnt everything. This church is family to me."

Meanwhile, St Matthew's has been singularly successful in having five women pastors manage its affairs over the years. "We have wholeheartedly accepted women heading our church from a long time ago. We have 76 CSI churches in Bengaluru and the surroundings. None of them or any our other churches in Karnataka have had five women posted as pastors, with Rev Salome Joshua serving a second term too," R G Rajkumar, its Secretary, states.

The list of pastors highlighted in the administration office at the entrance bears these names: Rev Nirmala Vasanthakumar, Rev Florence Deenadayalu, Rev Salome Joshua, Rev Shanthi Anandaraj, and the current Rev G S Shalini.

Rajkumar adds that the church is open to all and not merely Railway employees. "It has its own choir and is popular for its service. Most who frequent the Sunday service from 8.30 am to 10 am are from other parts of Bengaluru," he says. Around 300 people can watch the service seated inside, and even outside on a TV screen. "The pandemic popularised online worship among our visitors. Presently, online and offline worship are done simultaneously," Rajkumar adds.

The Bishop of Karnataka Central Diocese, Rev Dr Prasanna Kumar Samuel, graced its 125th Anniversary Day event last month -- an important milestone for the church, which is part of the city's religious heritage.

The calm surroundings of St Matthew's Church (right) in Bengaluru, which turned 125 this year | SHRIRAM BN

Spreading innovation

Joseph Lobo, a 44-yr-old farmer, is popularising the hydroponic method of cultivation and is growing the famous Shankarapura jasmine

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

THEY say a farmer is a magician who makes his living from the mud. But that is not true in the case of Joseph Lobo, a 44-year-old farmer from the coastal district of Udupi.

Lobo hails from Shankarapura, a tiny nondescript village sandwiched between the mighty Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. Shankarapura is called the jasmine capital of the Karnataka coastline and is famous for its Shankarapura mallige (mallige in Kannada means jasmine flowers). And like the majority of the residents of the village, Lobo too cultivates Shankarapura mallige. A passionate farmer, Lobo has been growing the Shankarapura mallige — which was accorded GI tag in 2008 — for the last 15 years.

But what sets him apart from the rest of the growers is that he has attempted to grow his prized possession without soil! Yes, you read it right. Lobo became the first grower in the region to adopt the novel hydroponic method of cultivation, which in layman's language is soil-less cultivation.

Lobo says he was inspired after attending a workshop at University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru, and started experimenting on the new method of cultivation. Lobo has 32 jasmine plants already, including the three grown using the hydroponic technique.

"I like to call myself an agropreneur… because invention adds value to the work we do. I could have grown jasmine like others. But I thought why be content with what I am doing already… I wanted to be different. The method is simple. I take a netted-basket and fill it with coco peat (a multipurpose growing medium made of coconut husks). I then take a bucket filled with organic liquid manure. Then I extract the jasmine sapling carefully without damaging its roots and plant it in the basket. Then I place the basket over the bucket. The roots below grow and absorb the required amount of nutrition from the liquid manure filled in the bucket," he elaborates.

When asked about the advantage of growing jasmine without soil, he says, "There is no risk of the plant getting infected with any disease. Most of the diseases that plants usually get are through soil. The three jasmine plants I am growing in the hydroponic method started flowering in just two-and-a-half months. In the traditional method, it flowers only after about 4 to 5 months."

Apart from jasmine, Lobo has also experimented growing chikoo, mulberry and all-season mango using the hydroponic method. He says selecting the right species of plant is vital to taste success. "Those species which grow on to become a tree cannot be confined in the hydroponic method. Plants that grow like bushes are ideal," he says confidently. His wife, Neema Lobo and daughter Janisha Lobo, a PU student, are equally enthusiastic about soil-less cultivation as it helps them in shifting the plants from one place to another easily.

Lobo says several farmers from his village have approached him to learn about hydroponic cultivation. "I have orders now to transform 25 acres of land in Shirva into a jasmine field. Youth are reaching out to me before starting their jasmine cultivation venture," he adds. Lobo also has plans to expand his area of jasmine cultivation. "I will plant more jasmine saplings in my 400-sqft terrace," he says.

Apart from the basic idea he got from the workshop at GKVK in Bengaluru, he polished his skills by watching videos on YouTube. His relative – Jason - who works in Israel - also motivated Lobo to take up this method of cultivation as it is widely practiced there. A patroniser of comprehensive method of farming, Lobo also grows 11 varieties of guava and other fruit-bearing plants. He also has 35 beehive boxes and a milch cow.

When asked if he has availed subsidy from the government, Lobo replies in negative and says, "I feel it is a more cumbersome task to do than cultivating jasmine!"

PRIDE OF THE COAST

Shankarapura jasmine was accorded GI tag in 2008

The flower is known for its unparalleled fragrance, and is very much in demand in Mumbai and abroad apart from local markets

Apart from jasmine, Joseph Lobo has also experimented growing sapota, mulberry and all-season mango using hydroponic method

His relative Jason, who works in Israel, also motivated Lobo to take up hydroponic method of cultivation as it is widely followed in Israel

Joseph Lobo poses with his jasmine plant along with his wife Neema and daughter Janisha (top); The famous Shankarapura jasmine | EXPRESS

PEENYA ELEVATED HIGHWAY CLOSED TO REPLACE CABLES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Peenya elevated highway, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city, has been closed for a week after the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) discovered that two cables had rusted at the Peenya 8th Mile of the stretch during an inspection on Saturday. The city traffic police have issued an advisory to the public, appealing them to take alternative routes.

The police closed the flyover at 3 pm on Saturday afternoon, following communication from the NHAI to undertake 'urgent repair works'. The impromptu closure of the highway led to traffic snarls in and around the area.

NHAI officials said that it was advised to close the highway following the detection of two rusted cables between pillars no. 102 and 103, during a routine inspection. NHAI's Regional Officer, Karnataka, Akil Ahmed said, "As a precautionary step, we are closing the bridge for traffic. Two of the pre-stressed concrete cables out of 20 have rusted due to heavy rain. We do not know when it happened, but we spotted it on Saturday, and are taking immediate action. We are looking at a closure period of 3-4 days, but if the entire cable has to be replaced, then it could take up to a week."

However, the traffic police have said the elevated highway will remain closed till December 31. "Tumakuru Road is a high-density traffic road. Hence, commuters are advised to take alternative routes," the police added.

> As a precautionary step, we are closing the bridge for traffic. Two of the pre-stressed concrete cables out of 20 have rusted due to heavy rain. We do not know when it happened, but we spotted it on Saturday, and are taking immediate action. We are looking at a closure period of 3-4 days, but if the entire cable has to be replaced, then it could take up to a weekm
>
> Akil Ahmed, NHAI's Regional Officer, Karnataka

Commuters coming from Tumakuru to Bengaluru are advised to take a right turn at Madavara and enter the city via NICE Road. Those going from Bengaluru towards Tumakuru Road and onwards are advised to take a left turn at CMTI Junction at Goraguntepalya, proceed on the ring road towards Magadi Road and enter NICE Road to exit the city.

Traffic gridlocks are likely to continue for the next week as many are expected to leave the city for the festive season.

Nearly 10,000 vehicles use the 4-km stretch of the elevated highway every day, and it is crucial as a gateway to Bengaluru City for the northern districts of Karnataka. The road is used by thousands of goods vehicles from Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, and Haryana, among others.

CISF adds more bite to its security setup at KIA

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

SIX super-efficient and exceptionally intelligent canines, all of them, Belgian Malinois breed, have just completed their training and are set to be inducted into one of the units of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) of the Kempegowda International Airport. Bengaluru will become the first airport in the country to have this breed put on security duty.

According to CISF sources, five are female and they have been specially trained to sniff explosives. "They will be inducted into the Airport Security Group (ASG), a unit of the CISF, into its K-9 dog squad. With the induction of the six Malinois, seven out of our 15-strong canine squad will be the Belgian ones," a top official said. Gracie, Laika, Lily, Rambo, Daisie and Bella have undergone training at the Dog Breeding and Training School of the CISF at Taralu, he said. The CISF canine squad at the airport comprises of Labradors, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, Cocker Spaniel and one Malinois.

The pack of six Belgian Malinois that were inducted into a CISF unit | EXPRESS

The breed shot to international fame after Cairo, a Belgian Malinois, helped the US Navy SEAL team track and kill former Al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan. Another Malinois, Conan, played a key role in the death of Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, ISIS leader in Syria during a commando raid on October 27, 2019.

"The dog is known for its excellent nose work and high levels of alertness. It will help us to detect bombs and even the slightest amount of explosives," another official said. "It works every efficiently in challenging situations. The ASG in Bengaluru is the first airport in the country to induct Belgian Malinois in its squad," he said.

The agile dogs have tremendous endurance and intelligence and were first deployed in India by the CRPF in anti-naxalite operations. A year ago, the CISF at Delhi Metro inducted one Belgian Malinois, Khoj, into its security team.

Garbage contractors threaten strike from December 31

ENS @ Bengaluru

FROM December 31, citizens may have to manage their garbage on their own, as the garbage contractors association working under the BBMP has threatened to go on an indefinite strike.

Members stated that a letter listing their problems was handed to the BBMP on December 8. If no solution is announced soon, they have threatened to go on strike. S N Balasubramanya, head of the garbage contractors association, said that on December 31, the strike will be a part of the Karnataka Bandh, and from January 1, an indefinite strike will be continued.

BBMP Special Commissioner, Solid Waste Management, Harish Kumar said, "We have called a meeting of the contractors with the BBMP Chief Commissioner and zonal commissioners to listen to their problems."

With pro-Kannada organisations calling for a Karnataka Bandh on December 31, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant has warned of strict action against those who try to shut shops forcibly. Pant said no organisation has approached the police or sought permission to hold any protests as part of the bandh.

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
1 YEAR, 291 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **270** | Yesterday: **405**

TALLY
Today: **30,04,239**
Yesterday: **30,03,969**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **4**	Today: **246**
Yesterday: **4**	Yesterday: **267**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **7,271**
Yesterday: **7,251**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **5.37%**	Today: **1.27%**
Yesterday: **5.38%**	Yesterday: **1.27%**

RECOVERY RATE
Today: **98.48%**
Yesterday: **98.48%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	**252**
Bengaluru Rural	**5**
Bagalkot	0
Ballari	0
Belagavi	7
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	1
Chikkaballapur	2
Chikkamagaluru	1
Chitradurga	1
Dakshina Kannada	11
Davanagere	1
Dharwad	2
Gadag	0
Hassan	5
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	25
Kolar	6
Koppal	0
Mandya	2
Mysuru	13
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	0
Shivamogga	3
Tumakuru	14
Udupi	14
Uttara Kannada	5
Vijayapura	0
Yadgir	0

7 more test +ve for Omicron in state

Karnataka tally now 38; Genome labs flooded with samples to check variant

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru:

SEVEN new Omicron cases have been confirmed in Karnataka on Saturday, pushing the tally to 38. Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that while all are residents of Bengaluru, one patient has no travel history and two patients have travelled from Delhi. One is a primary contact of an Omicron patient in Delhi, while the other patients came from Zambia, the US and the UK.

The health bulletin for Omicron cases stated that a 76-year-old male had travelled from Delhi to Bengaluru on December 3. It was known that he was a contact of an Omicron patient in Delhi, and fully vaccinated with Covishield. His reports came positive on December 6 and samples were sent for genome sequencing. After 10 days of treatment at a private hospital, he was discharged and his reports came Covid-negative on December 22. Meanwhile, three of his primary contacts and two secondary contacts also tested positive for Covid-19.

A 30-year-old woman who arrived from UAE on December 13 tested negative at the airport but developed mild symptoms, and an RT-PCR test came positive on December 18, after which samples were sent for genome sequencing. One of her primary contacts tested positive, and she is now discharged.

Interestingly, another Bengalurean with no travel history has tested positive for Omicron. The 54-year-old fully vaccinated male developed fever and his RT-PCR reports came positive for Covid-19 on December 19. He has recovered but is under institutional isolation at a private hospital.

The other patient is a traveller from Zambia to Bengaluru, who tested positive on December 18, and is under treatment in a private hospital. A 21-year-old male tested positive six days after coming from UK. He is currently in a private hospital, and of six primary contacts, two have tested positive. A 62-year-old male who travelled from Delhi to Bengaluru on December 20 developed mild symptoms and tested positive at the airport. He is under institutional isolation at a private hospital, and one of his primary contacts has tested positive.

A 15-year-old girl from Bengaluru returned from the US on December 20 and tested positive, though she was asymptomatic. She is now being treated at a private hospital, and one primary contact has tested positive for Covid-19.

Amid fear of community spread of Omicron cases, health officials are waiting for reports of more than 2,000 samples that are pending for analysis at genome sequencing labs. BBMP itself has sent 1,973 samples for sequencing. "Other than samples of international travellers who test positive and their contacts, most of the samples sent for genome sequencing are those with a cycle threshold (CT) value of less than 25. The CT value indicates the viral load in a patient with SARS-CoV2. From the daily caseload, 80 per cent of samples are being sent to genome labs for sequencing," a senior health official said.

Other than these, all cluster samples are sent for sequencing so that the presence of Omicron is not missed out.

Tougher curbs for NYE celebrations, hints CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai hinted at stricter rules for the coming week, with New Year celebrations lined up. The state may also be planning to implement night curfew, and the final decision will be taken after consulting the expert committee. He said he will hold a meeting with expert committee members and other officials in Bengaluru on Sunday, before making changes in the existing rules.

Central team to oversee Covid mgmt, vax drive

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

THE multi-disciplinary team, which will be deployed by the Centre, will specifically look at areas of contact tracing, including surveillance, containment operations and Covid-19 testing, including sending an adequate number of samples from clusters to the INSACOG network for genome sequencing.

Karnataka is one of the states where the central teams will work with state health authorities to monitor Omicron cases and surveillance measures to contain the spread.

A memorandum from the Union Health Ministry stated that multi-disciplinary central teams have been deployed in 10 states — Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Mizoram, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Punjab — which are reporting either increasing number of Omicron and Covid 19 cases or slow vaccination pace.

A health worker stores swab samples collected from a passenger at the KSRTC Bus Station on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN

"In Karnataka, we are trying our best to reach the vaccination target. We have also introduced several stricter measures, brought back volunteers, reintroduced apps to monitor and ensure stricter home quarantine of patients and their contacts. However, the central team will guide the officials on how we can micro manage and monitor the spread at the micro level," said an official from the Health department.

The central teams will stay for a duration of five days in the identified states. In Karnataka, there has been an increase in clusters and active cases in the last 14 days. At a recent review meeting held by the Union Health ministry along with National Health Mission Director of all states and UTs, it was pointed out that Karnataka's cluster cases have become worrisome.

"Though the daily cases have remained in the same range and the R-naught and positivity rates have been around 0.30%, which is a relief, the increase in clusters from educational institutions is worrisome. Also, the genome reports of many samples with lesser CT values are also awaited. These may be a few concerns we will be working on when the central team is here," said a District Health Officer.

The team will also hold meetings with ministers, district administration and members of Technical Advisory Comittee for management of Covid-19.

33 students infected in Kolar, 26 in Kushalnagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolar/ Madikeri

AS many as 33 medical students of Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College tested positive for Covid-19 in Kolar in the past week. The first case was reported on December 17. All the students have been isolated at RL Jalappa Hospital and are stable. Their samples have been sent for genomic sequencing.

District surveillance officer Dr Charani said all the infected students have no travel history as internal exams are going on. The block where the students were staying has been declared a containment zone. Health officials have collected samples of 1,192 primary and secondary contacts of the infected so far.

In Madikeri, 26 students of Atturu Jnanaganda Residential School near Kushalnagar tested positive for Covid-19. The school management arranged Covid tests two days ago and 387 students gave their swabs. Among them, 26 tested positive. "The students are in Classes 5 to 10. Arrangements are in place to test all 600 students. The institution has been declared as a containment zone," said Somwarpet taluk health officer Dr Srinivas.

The students are in Classes 5 to 10. Arrangements are in place to test all 600-odd students. The institution has been declared as a containment zone

Dr Srinivas, Somwarpet taluk health officer

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Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chauhan, along with officials, will be visiting Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra for three days starting from December 27 to study goshalas in these states. In a release from the minister's office, Chauhan said that the Karnataka government will soon be opening one goshala in each district.

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'Undernutrition in children a worry, data needs to be revalidated'

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

Under PM-POSHAN flexi fund component, a supplementary nutrition programme has been rolled out in backward districts of Karnataka- Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal, Ballari and Vijayapura

Dr Vishal R, Commissioner, Public Instruction, Government of Karnataka

CHILDHOOD undernutrition contributes to childhood diseases and is a major cause of child mortality in India. As per the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), children's nutritional status in Karnataka has improved slightly since NFHS-4 by all measures. However, the continuing high levels of undernutrition and stunting (35.4 per cent of preschool children) are major concerns the State needs to address. In an exclusive interview with The New Sunday Express, Commissioner, Public Instruction, Government of Karnataka, Dr Vishal R shares details of government initiatives to cater to child nutrition. Excerpts:

We have seen the importance of midday meals for schoolchildren in terms of nutrition and continuing with school education. What is your understanding regarding the components of a meal for children?

The Midday Meal (MDM) guidelines envisage a hot cooked midday meal per child per day with 450 calories and 12gm of protein for primary level, and 700 calories and 20gm of protein for upper primary level. These are a supplement for the diet of a child. For the secondary level, just like primary level, supplementation is provided. A balanced meal with carbohydrates, proteins and fats along with minerals and vitamins is a must for every child to undertake various physical and mental activities, and to have healthy body development and growth.

The government decision to include eggs in midday meals has led to resistance from vegetarian families who question egg in their child's meal. What is the right balance? If not eggs, what can be a good substitute?

Under PM-POSHAN flexi fund component, a supplementary nutrition programme has been rolled out in backward districts of Karnataka -- Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal, Ballari and Vijayapura -- which have high prevalence of malnutrition and anaemia among children. Egg and banana are distributed to students as additional supplementary nutrition along with midday meal to students of Class 1 to 8 in government and aided schools. Egg is distributed to only those students who consume it as per their food habits, with permission from parents. Banana is given as a rich source of carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and protein to students who don't eat eggs. Various alternatives are being explored, in consultation with nutritionists and experts, to give fulsome nutrition as a substitute for eggs.

What does children's nutrition lack in India? What is the most sustainable nutritious diet for children from economically weak families?

Normally, multi-nutritional deficiency, lack of iron and folic acid, Vitamin A, Vitamin B12, fibre, fat and protein are deficient among growing children in the country. Fortification of food (rice, wheat, edible oil, salt etc) with a balanced diet is the suitable dietary intervention for children from economically weak families.

Children lack both quantitative and qualitative aspects in their food, which need to redressed by encouraging and provisioning of sufficient quantity and acceptable quality of micronutrients and macronutrients. There is a need to supplement it with bio-activated ingredients like sprouted legumes, green leafy vegetables, curd and fruits, which increases bio-availability. This is in addition to main staple grains.

What is the importance of bio-availability in our meal?

Bio-available amount of a trace element in a meal, not the total amount, is the critical factor for human health. Most staple plant foods (cereal grains and legume seeds) alone contain very low levels of bio-available Fe (about 5%) because of the anti-nutrients they contain (phytate, polyphenols, etc.) Increasing bio-availability of Fe from 5% to 30% would have the same effect as increasing the total amount of Fe in staples six-fold.

How many children are covered under midday meals in Karnataka?

There are 59,83,247 student beneficiaries as per enrolment in Class 1 to 10 in government and government-aided schools under PM-POSHAN MDMS. There are 42,56,354 children in unaided schools, who are not covered.

How can we bring those not covered under midday meal scheme?

This is to be decided by the parents and school management, based on mutual agreement.

What is the percentage of children with malnutrition in Karnataka?

At the national level, 11 per cent of children are malnourished and 5 per cent are acutely malnourished. According to a recent survey among preschool children, 35.4 per cent are stunted in Karnataka, which is being revalidated. The State reported 6,899 Severe Acute Malnutritioned (SAM) children, who are being followed up on. The numbers are gradually decreasing due to medical and nutritional interventions.

What is the long-term impact of malnutrition on maternal and infant health?

It traverses a whole spectrum of disability and contributes to sub-optimal development indicators, and has an adverse effect on sustainable growth and development of the State.

ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

Forced conversions will be regulated: RSS leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

RASHTRIYA Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) national executive member Ram Madhav on Saturday defended the Karnataka Government's anti-conversion Bill, stating it is only meant to regulate forced conversions. Christian community leaders have expressed apprehensions over the Bill which was passed in the Assembly during the recent winter session in Belagavi. It will be tabled in the Legislative Council in January. "The Bill does not ban anything. If conversions are done through force, fraud or allurement, such conversions cannot be acceptable," he told TNSE.

Stating that the law is not directed against any particular community, but only against certain malpractices, the RSS leader said there were many instances like misleading people or using allurements to indulge in conversions. The law is to regulate certain methods adopted to convert people as conversion also leads to collateral consequences, like family-related tension and even communal peace can be disturbed, he said. "I think, keeping that in view, the Bill has been proposed. In any case, it is still before the House. Let the House take a view," he added.

Extended outreach

Ram Madhav said that as part of the extended outreach initiative, RSS leaders, including its chief, are reaching out to different sections of society. "They may not be directly participating in RSS activities, but they should understand what we work for, so that misconceptions are removed and also goodwill is generated," he said.

On the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the RSS leader said there was a deliberate and mischievous campaign to create controversies. "There is no provision to take away anybody's citizenship. Misunderstandings will be cleared and very soon we are hoping that the government will come up with the rules for the CAA," he said. On criticism that the suggestion for population policy is aimed at one particular community, the RSS leader said it is wrong to bring communal discourse into population control policy. "It should be uniform and across the board," he added.

> **The Bill does not ban anything. If conversions are done through force, fraud or allurement, such conversions cannot be acceptable**
>
> Ram Madhav, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) national executive member

Minister JC Madhuswamy pays tribute to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the latter's 97th birth anniversary in Tumakuru on Saturday

> **If a State Government employee converts to a different religion, it will be entered in his or her service register**
>
> JC Madhuswamy, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

SCs, STs who convert will lose quota benefits: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

LAW and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy on Saturday reiterated that the State Government will table the anti-conversion Bill in the Legislative Council during the joint session in January and bring a law to check forcible religious conversions.

The Bill was passed in the Assembly on Thursday during the just-concluded winter session in Belagavi.

Addressing the media here, Madhuswamy said that those belonging to the SC and ST communities, who want to convert on their own, will not get quota benefits under the category after converting and it will be registered in their children's birth certificate and in schools as well. "If a government employee converts, it will be entered in his or her service register. We will not withdraw the benefits which they had already availed under the SC and ST quotas. But after conversion, they are not eligible for the same," he added.

"We are not banning conversions, but only those conversions done for the sake of marriage and those done to allure innocent people with inducements, which amounts to cheating. The new law, which is already there in seven BJP-ruled states, is to give religious security and to maintain public order," he said.

Democracy succeeded due to respect for plurality, says Kerala Governor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HIGHLIGHTING India's democratic journey since the ages, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said, "Indian democracy succeeded not because of the borrowed ideas of the West, but because of an ancient civilisation and spirituality which respected pluralism since times immemorial."

Delivering the 4th Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture, on the late ocasion of the late Prime Minister's 97th birth anniversary, here on Saturday, the veteran leader observed that while all religions are prescriptive, the Indian tradition is reflective of diversity and pluralism.

"Diversity is deeply rooted in our tradition. Democracy has flourished since we respect and tolerate all traditions. The West seeks to have control over their selfish desires through laws, but in India, it is voluntarily self-imposed with each individual being conscious about a sense of accountability," he said at the event, organised by the India Foundation at BMS Engineering College auditorium. Describing the contributions of Vajpayee, with whom he had a cordial relationship, Khan said the former PM was one of the finest examples of imbibing the 'Sanatana' tradition by integrating himself into the ethos and propagating it amongst the public. "If we could understand his idea of Indian tradition, many puzzles of religion, secularism and culture could be solved with ease," he said. Former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu observed that Vajpayee, as PM, brought in cultural nationalism that was not reflected in the political thought process. "When he (Vajpayee) lost the vote of confidence in 1998, he was prophetic when he said that one day, the BJP will become a prominent political party in India," Prabhu remarked.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan addresses the 4th Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

> **Democracy has flourished since we respect and tolerate all traditions. The West seeks to have control over their selfish desires through laws, but in India, it is voluntarily self-imposed with each individual being conscious about a sense of accountability**
>
> Arif Mohammed Khan, Kerala Governor

LEADERSHIP TALK

Bommai to lead party in 2023: Kateel

ENS @ Bengaluru

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Saturday rubbished speculations over leadership change in the state. "There is no leadership change in Karnataka. Bommai will continue to be the Chief Minister till the next Assembly elections in 2023," Katel told the media. Such speculations were also spread immediately after BS Yediyurappa had taken over as the CM, but he continued for two-and-half years, he said.

"To create confusion, the Congress may be spreading such rumours," he said. BJP will face the elections under the collective leadership of Bommai, Yediyurappa and other senior leaders, he said adding as the CM, Bommai will lead the party. Kateel said Bommai is not going aboard for his knee treatment and he is getting treated for the same here. He, however, said Bommai was supposed to go on an official visit, but that has been postponed. Bommaitoo said as of now there are no plans of him embarking on a foreign tour.

Food security enigma: Child malnutrition high, despite economic growth

LOOKING AHEAD 2022 LOOKING BACK

As a critical pandemic year draws to a close, domain experts give a wideangle view of how Karnataka fares across crucial sectors. We kickoff the series with nutrition among children

CHETAN CHOITHANI
PhD, Assistant Professor, Inequality and Human Development Programme, School of Social Sciences, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

FOR the past few years, the annual publication of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has grabbed headlines in India for the country's poor ranking on food and nutrition. The 2021 edition of this report ranks India at 101 out of 116 countries, with the hunger situation in the country categorised as 'serious'. Worryingly, this rank places India even below the extremely poor and politically unstable nations in Sub-Saharan Africa such as Cameroon and Tanzania, as well as its poorer South Asian neighbours of Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

Media attention, however, focuses narrowly on this ranking, and there is little serious discussion on the nutritional crisis that India faces. Worse still, in recent times, the government response to this report has been outright denial of GHI on account of its methodology. GHI methodology is not without flaws. GHI is a composite measure that uses three interlinked dimensions of hunger, including proportion of population consuming inadequate calorie intake, proportion of undernourished children (which includes two indicators of 'stunted' and 'wasted' children below the age of 5 years), and under-5 mortality rates. These three dimensions are assigned one-third weight each. The one-third weight of child undernutrition component is shared equally between the two indicators of child nutrition.

For dietary energy intake, the GHI uses Food and Agriculture Organisation's Prevalence of Undernourishment data which is more a measure of food supply than actual consumption. Despite this shortcoming, the fact remains that the nutritional situation in India is worse than in many other countries that are poorer in per capita income. India fares particularly badly on child undernutrition, which has had a significant impact on the country's consistently low GHI ranking. Child undernutrition in India remains stubbornly high.

Recent data from India's National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) shows that one-third of all children under five years of age are stunted (35.5%) and underweight (32.1%), and child nutrition levels barely improved from the last round of this survey done in 2015-16. In fact, the proportion of underweight and stunted children has increased in some states, including economically advanced states of Maharashtra and Kerala. Indeed, in the global food security discourse India is described as an 'enigma' where child undernutrition is higher than many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Moreover, high economic growth in India for over a quarter of a century has contributed too to improve child nutrition. Cross-country evidence shows that economic growth and consequent rise in average incomes reduce child undernutrition, and decline in prevalence of child underweight tends to be nearly half the rate of growth of per capita Gross Domestic Product. As per World Bank data, between 1990 and 2015, the average per capita GDP in India grew at an average annual rate of 4.5 per cent. This income growth should have provided a potent force to address the problem of childhood undernutrition; and if the observed relationship between GDP per capita and undernutrition held perfectly in India, this would have eliminated childhood undernutrition during this 25-year period. Yet, India's progress on this front has been sluggish.

There are several possible explanations for this enigma. First, the failure of economic growth to make a significant dent to childhood undernutrition lies in exclusionary nature of India's growth that has benefitted a small section of country's populace, while leaving behind a majority. In particular, the prevalence of undernutrition is higher among children of historically marginalised communities of Scheduled Castes/Tribes who continue to witness starvation deaths.

Second, the low status of women and widespread gender discrimination contributes to high rates of childhood undernutrition. The gender differentials in treatment favouring boys over girls in food and health care, results in higher undernourishment among girls which in turn manifests into women bearing below normal weight babies, leading to intergenerational cycle of undernourishment. India has among the highest proportion of low-weight babies which means the problem of undernutrition starts in the womb, which is rooted in low status of women.

Third, the generally poor hygiene and sanitation conditions that lead to disease, often mean that even when there is enough food to go around, food consumed is inadequately absorbed in the body for it to achieve optimal development.

Finally, socio-cultural norms around breastfeeding also inhibit child growth, and 40% of Indian children under the age of six months are not exclusively breastfed, against the recommended guidelines.

We need to acknowledge the nutritional crisis that stares at us and start a serious public discussion on this issue. There is a moral imperative to address childhood undernutrition in India. And good nutrition at an early age generally improves children's educational and employment outcomes later in life, and economic gains for India are likely to be substantial too.

In the wake of the Karnataka Bandh call given by Kannada organisations on December 31, JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy urged the State Government to ban the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti and resolve the border issue permanently

DRAWING THE LINE ON MAHA BORDER ROW

Members of Marathi organisations stage a dharna in protest in Belagavi against the desecration of a Shivaji statue in Bengaluru recently | EXPRESS

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

THE vexed boundary dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra seems to crop up whenever the state legislature sessions are held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. And just a minor incident is enough to spark a major row. Importantly, this time, the conflict erupted when the legislatures of Karnataka and Maharashtra were in session almost simultaneously.

The latest trigger was the blackening of the face of Deepak Dalvi, a top leader of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) in Belagavi during the Mahamelava. This led to burning of a Kannada flag at Kolhapur in Maharashtra and stoning of several Karnataka vehicles.

The matter spiralled when a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji was desecrated in Bengaluru and the following day, a statue of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna was defaced in Belagavi. In Karnataka, calls are now getting shriller to ban the MES with Kannada organisations calling for a state bandh on December 31 if no action is taken by then.

Even after 65 years of reorganisation of states, the Maharashtra Government and pro-Marathi organisations continue to stake claim over several border areas of Karnataka, including Belagavi city. The Karnataka Government, time and again, has declared that the boundary dispute is a closed chapter and that the recommendations of Mehar Chand Mahajan Commission are binding.

While sending a strong message to Maharashtra on its demands for merger of several areas of the state with it, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced in the state Assembly a few days ago: "Karnataka will not give up even an inch of its land. The Suvarna Vidhan Soudha in Belagavi is another power centre of Karnataka state and it will remain in the state until the Sun and Moon exist."

Since the reorganisation of states in 1956, several out-of-court measures by the Centre to resolve the dispute between the two states have gone in vain.

Besides the Mahajan Commission, constituted in 1966 by the Centre to address the border dispute, many efforts have been made to find a lasting solution to the row, but the two states have failed to come to a consensus on any of the recommendations and reports submitted by various commissions.

Prime Ministers in the past have fixed meetings of chief ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra on several occasions to find a solution to the boundary dispute, but the CMs never turned up, says former MLA Manohar Kinekar, who is at the forefront of the MES movement, which is pitting for merger of the state's border areas with Maharashtra.

BIG PICTURE

"The Centre should again take the initiative to find a lasting solution to the dispute. We are ready to agree to any of the decisions taken by the Centre to finally end the dispute. We are ready to accept even if the decision is in favour of Karnataka," he says.

The Maharashtra government moved the Supreme Court when all out-of-court and other measures for a dispute resolution got exhausted in 2004 – almost 48 years after the reorganisation of states. According to sources, a fresh hearing on the boundary row in the Apex Court is expected in mid-January 2022.

In response to Maharashtra's petition in the SC, the Karnataka Government has contended that the boundary dispute does not come under the purview of the courts and that only Parliament has powers to decide on the creation and recreation of state's boundaries. "The boundary dispute case is not maintainable as Maharashtra has moved the court 55 years after the reorganisation of states," the Karnataka Government had earlier claimed in court.

MORE POLITICAL THAN LEGAL

To ascertain whether it could file a case in the Supreme Court for a solution to the row, the Maharashtra Government had constituted a committee, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice YV Chandrachud, who recommended that under Article 131 of the Constitution, anything could be challenged in the Supreme Court. On his recommendations, Maharashtra filed a case in the apex court against Karnataka in 2004.

For the last two years, both the governments did not pursue the case due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation. Most of the legal formalities have been completed by both the states and the Centre too replied to the court about its stand on the boundary row, say highly-placed sources in New Delhi.

A top Supreme Court advocate says the boundary case is getting more political than legal, given the way it is being handled by both states. The leaders in the government, whether Karnataka or Maharashtra, are concerned more about their political gains from the issue rather than taking some concrete measures to find a lasting solution, he said.

"Parliament is the sole authority to take a call on creation and recreation of states and its boundaries. Nobody can question it. Only in the rarest cases, when it is noticed that the decisions taken by Parliament are arbitrary, the Supreme Court can review the case. Although the boundaries are drawn on linguistic lines, areas on the border in many states are occupied predominantly by people speaking different languages. Parliament has reorganised the states effectively by considering all the aspects," he added.

CLAIMS OF MAHARASHTRA

To stake its claim on Karnataka's border areas, pro-Maharashtra leaders in Belagavi region launched the MES soon after the reorganisation of states, and, in the years that followed, the MES-supported candidates in many constituencies of Belagavi district on the border have won as MLAs in several elections hands down.

Many MES candidates have been mayors of Belagavi since then. From 1957 to 1998, all MLAs who won from Belagavi constituency were supported by MES.

The Mahajan Commission recommended transfer of 268 villages, towns and cities of Karnataka to Maharashtra including Nandagad, Nipani and Khanapur, and in turn, recommended for transfer of 248 villages, towns, cities of Maharashtra to Karnataka, including Solapur, Jath and Akkalkot.

However, the Maharashtra government refused to accept the report as it mainly wanted Belagavi city to be merged with Maharashtra. In fact, the commission was named on the insistence of the Maharashtra government when late Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister.

CURRENT STATUS OF MES

In the last two decades, the MES has completely lost its significance in the region. From six to seven MLAs which it had in all the Assembly elections held in Belagavi region until 1998, the count has reduced to zero in recent years. The MES did not win even a single seat in the last three Assembly elections. It lost in Nipani and Khanapur also, where more than 90 per cent of people speak Marathi. And yet, the Maharashtra government continues to exert pressure on the Centre and bolster its legal battle in the apex court.

EXPERTS' TAKE

All political parties and leaders in Karnataka have said Belagavi is an integral part of the state and claim that the boundary dispute is a closed chapter. Noted Kannada leaders Shivangouda Patil and Srinivas Talukar say Maharashtra's attempts for merger of areas of Karnataka will never materialise as the state's boundaries were marked scientifically by taking all factors into consideration. Activist Ashok Chandargi says Karnataka must bolster its legal teams in the Supreme Court to stake the state's claims strongly. He said the state's claims that the boundary case is not maintainable as Maharashtra filed the case in the court 55 years after the reorganisation of states was effective and logical.

K'taka 6th in Good Governance Index

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA has been placed sixth in the composite ranking among 'Group A' states with incremental progress in Commerce and Industry in the Good Governance Index 2021. Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the index, prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) on 'Good Governance Day' in New Delhi on Saturday.

With an individual third rank in Commerce and Industry (score 5.109), the state was able to achieve sixth rank just behind Kerala and followed by Tamil Nadu. In agriculture and allied sectors, the state was ranked fifth, in Environment fourth and in Public Infrastructure and Utilities, eighth.

In Judiciary and Public Safety, Karnataka was ranked sixth. All states, except Karnataka, have higher conviction rate over the previous GGI. On the other hand, Karnataka has a higher disposal rate of consumer court cases, while nine other states have shown decline.

In the composite ranking among Group A states, covering 10 sectors, Gujarat tops followed by Maharashtra, Goa and Haryana. The GGI 2021 says that Gujarat registered 12.3 per cent increase and Goa registered 24.7 percent increase over the GGI 2019 indicators.

Stand-up comic caught in BJP-TRS crossfire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

TELANGANA president B Sanjay Kumar on Saturday instructed the activists of the BJ Yuva Morcha to ensure that stand-up comic Munawar Faruqui does not perform in Hyderabad.

The stand up comic is scheduled to do a show in the city on January 9, after right wing activists managed to stop him from performing in various cities across the country, after accusing him of having "insulted Hindu Gods and Goddesses". Though unproven, the accusation was enough for Faruqui to spend 37 days in a jail in Indore before the Supreme Court had granted him bail with no restrictions on his movements.

Faruqui's torment did not end after his release; he was obstructed from performing in various States including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Gujarat and Goa among others.

Last week, when IT and Industries Minister K Taraka Rama Rao spoke about how Hyderabad's cosmopolitan nature has set it apart from other cities and that everybody was welcome to Hyderabad, including comedians like Munawar Faruqui and Kunal Kamra, if they wanted to do a show here.

Rama Rao's speech was enough for the BJP State leadership to make an issue out of. BJP MP D Arvind two days ago had warned that the party would not allow Faruqui to perform in Hyderabad.

On Saturday, Sanjay Kumar alleged: "Faruqui has insulted Rama, Sita, Durga, Ramayana and Bhagwad Gita in his shows. Many states have banned this fool's shows, but KTR is welcoming him to perform in the city. The son and ministers of a person (Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao) who calls himself a real Hindu, are all atheists."

TS bans rallies, public meets till January 2

ENS @Hyderabad

AHEAD of the New Year, the Telangana government on Saturday banned rallies and public meetings till January 2 with immediate effect throughout the State, in view of the threat posed by Omicron, the newest variant of Covid-19.

According to the orders issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, the decision to prohibit rallies and public meetings throughout the State was taken after careful consideration of the prevailing situation, particularly in light of the emergence of Omicron.

Other events involving congregation of people will be permitted, subject to strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines like physical distancing, wearing of face masks within the venue and IR thermometers / thermal scanners at the entry point.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had suggested certain measures in view of the detection of Omicron in different parts of the country.

The Telangana High Court too issued orders to take appropriate decision in respect of public gatherings keeping in view of Omicron spread.

The Chief Secretary said that orders on imposition of fine for not wearing of mask in public spaces issued in April, 2021 shall be strictly enforced.

CRIME PATROL

3 held, ambergris worth Rs 4 cr seized

Bengaluru: The Mico Layout police have arrested three people and seized ambergris worth Rs 4 crore. Panner Selvam, Anand Shekhar and K Manju, all from Tamil Nadu, were caught red-handed following credible information that they were waiting for clients to deliver the consignment near Lake Road, on Friday, police said. The police have seized 4.100 kg of ambergris and a car from the accused. "Investigations revealed that they had brought the ambergris from Tamil Nadu to the city with a plan to sell it. Efforts are on to trace others involved in the racket," the police added. **ENS**

17-year-old killed by friends over trivial issue

Bengaluru: A 17-year-old teenager was murdered by his friends over a trivial row, in MV Garden in Halasur police station limits on Friday night. The police have arrested a youth in connection with the incident. It is said that the accused committed the murder under the influence of drugs. The deceased is identified as Minush, a resident of MV Garden. Police said Minush had a fight with his friend Santhosh and others on Friday. In the night, Santhosh came to Minush's home with two of his associates and attacked Minush, slitting his throat with a surgical blade. A profusely bleeding Minush was rushed to a hospital by passersby, but he succumbed. The police arrested Santhosh within a few hours and are on the lookout for two others. **ENS**

Six drug peddlers held, 15 kg ganja seized

Bengaluru: Sleuths of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) have arrested six people and seized 15 kg of ganja, worth around Rs 10 lakh, which they had planned to sell during the New Year celebrations. Police said they conducted a raid after receiving a tip-off that ganja was stocked at a house in Jnanajyothi Nagar in Mallathalli. Three residents of Chamarajanagar and three residents of Bengaluru were arrested. The accused reportedly admitted that they planned to sell the ganja to students and young professionals during the New Year celebrations. A case has been registered at the Jnanabharathi police station. **ENS**

Teen killed, 2 hurt in road accident

Bengaluru: A 13-year-old girl was killed on the spot while her mother and sister sustained injuries after a truck rammed into their vehicle. The incident occurred on Varthur Main Road under Whitefield traffic police station limits on Saturday afternoon. The deceased is Jayashree. Her mother Vinimala and 10-year-old sister, Jaya Manickam sustained minor injuries. Police said Vinimala was riding the scooter while three of her daughters -- Jayashree, Jaya Manickam and a seven year old – were riding pillion. Near Varthur police station, the driver of a concrete-mixer vehicle tried to overtake the scooter at a close distance. "Vinimala lost control of the vehicle and fell while Jayashree came under the rear wheels of the lorry. The driver of the lorry has been arrested," police said. **ENS**

Chalk out plan to shift 5k transformers: HC

ENGALURU: A high-level committee formed by the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has identified 5,245 transformers to be shifted from footpaths in the city. The identification was done based on directives issued by the high court while hearing public interest litigation filed by Wing Commander GB Athri (retired).

Considering the safety of pedestrians, a division bench directed BESCOM to submit an action plan to shift transformers with details of the locality and time required for shifting in a phased manner.

The court directed BESCOM to submit the action plan by the next date of hearing on February 4, 2022. However, work on shifting of transformers should start before the next date of hearing, the court added.

The court had noted that it has already recorded a finding that if footpaths are obstructed, it may infringe on the fundamental rights of pedestrians. **ENS**

THE TAMIL NADU Dr.AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI – 600 028

NOTIFICATION

Advertisement No.1/2021 **Date: 26.12.2021**

Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for appointment to the following posts:

Teaching:

S.No.	Posts	No. of posts
1.	Professor	2
2.	Associate Professor	4
3.	Assistant Professor	68
4.	Assistant Director of Physical Education	1

Non-Teaching:

S. No.	Posts	No. of Posts	S. No.	Posts	No. of Posts
1	Technical Officer (Library)	1	7	Library Assistant	2
2	Superintendent	1	8	Record Clerk	5
3	Stenographer	1	9	Electrician	1
4	Assistant	8	10	Office Assistant	11
5	Junior Assistant	14	11	Store Keeper	1
6	Junior Assistant (Technical)	4	12	Helper/Messenger	1

For further details, regarding application form, qualifications, pay and general instructions please visit the University website **www.tndalu.ac.in** **from 26.12.2021 by 8.00 a.m.**

The last date for receipt of application is 19.01.2022 at 5.45 p.m.

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.

The post will be filled as per the State Government Reservation Policy. MBC(Vanniakula Kshatriya) reservation will be decided depending on the outcome of the SLA No.19574/2021 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

DIPR/1199/DIS/2021 **REGISTRAR i/c**

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR
INVITATION FOR BIDS
E-mail- eerwss_rai@nic.in, eerwss.rai@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDENTIFICATION No. 62 RWSS / RRPUR- 2021-2022 / Dated. 23.12.2021

O-1518: The Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites **percentage rate** bids to be received in online mode for the following works from the eligible experienced contractors in similar nature of work, registered with State Govt. & contractor of equivalent Grade/class registered with Central Govt. / Railways.

1. Nature of work :- a) Execution of clubbed up PWS schemes to different villages of **Bahalda, Tiring, Jamda & Bisoi** Block under RWS&S Division Rairangpur in the District of Mayurbhanj.
2. No. of packages :- 4 (Four) nos.
3. Period of Completion :- 11(Eleven) months
4. Cost of tender :- **₹10000.00**
5. Estimated cost :- **₹342.07** Lakhs to - **₹416.95**
6. Class of Contractor :- (As mentioned in tender Call Notice)
7. Date and time of availability of bid documents in Portal :- from **10 hours of 04.01.2022 to 17.00 to hours of 20.01.2022**
8. Receipt of bid cost, bid security, documents :- Online only
9. Date & time of opening of technical bid :- Dt. 21.07.2022 at 16.00 hours onwards.
10. Other Documents :- (As mentioned in DTCN)
11. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https/www.tendersodisha, gov.in.
12. Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
RWSS Division, Rairangpur **OIPR- 25010/11/0038/2122**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
At:- Ambapua, Po:- Engineering School, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011
(E-Mail:-serwbpr2004@yahoo.com. Tel/Fax :- 0680-2404287)
E-Mail / E-despatch

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
O-1525 Bid Identification No Online Tender /39- 2021 -22/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 39-2021-22/ BPR	Bridge Works under Inter District, Inter Block Connectivity scheme	01 No.	Rs. 789.26 lakhs	"Special" class & "Super" Class as applicable	24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/ 39-2021-22/ BPR	27.12.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	10.01.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) No EMD is required as per O.M. No. 8943 Dt. 18.03.2021 of Finance Department. Govt of Odisha. But Bid Security declaration should be furnished by the bidders as mentioned In the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the OTCH will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www-tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Circle, Berhampur
OIPR- 2507 1/11/0036/2122

"Be who you are and let everyone love that person" — Wiz Khalifa

2022: KNOWN UNKNOWNS, IN QUEST OF ANSWERS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
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THE Oxford Word of the Year in 2020 was 'lockdown'. The Oxford Word of the Year for 2021 is Vax aka vaccine! Every living room conversation and political colloquy begins or ends with the predictable 'because of the pandemic'. Google the word 'pandemic' and it throws up over 4 billion results — and every few hours a few million are added.

It is verily Year III of the global pandemic. The virus has afflicted over 280 million and killed over 5.4 million — and this winter, it is adding nearly a million cases a day. As the world, wary and weary, heads into 2022, public mood is stranded between hope and despair. Hope rests on the speculation that the advent of Omicron signals the waning of virus and the pandemic. The despair is caused by experience of patchy public policy leaving people wondering if this too is a false dawn.

The lexicon defines 'Epiphany' as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Epiphany is also described as the moment when one sees or understands something in a new or lucid manner. In this season of epiphany, as the world wrestles with known unknowns and awaits answers to questions, here are a few posers.

Isn't It Time For A New Playbook: Two years into the pandemic, the world is stuck with the Wuhan Model of lockdowns. Zero Covid is at best an ambitious rhetoric popular in China — and nobody for sure knows how many are tested, infected and felled by the virus! There is a grudging recognition that shutdown of flights don't work. Neither do omnibus policies. In 1973, W J Rittel and Melvin M Webber observed that public policy questions are often wicked problems. The political class seems to expect the phalanx of pharma giants to underwrite political risk. It is true that vaccines have saved lives and pharma solutions are necessary but can they be the bulwark of public policy?

How Many Vaccine Doses: It was just a year back that the world was told the antidote to the virus was a dose of vaccine. In over 50 weeks since the first jab was delivered, governments propelled the second dose and are now scrambling to define "fully vaccinated" as booster doses are in vogue. This week, Israel announced it would introduce the "fourth dose". Every few weeks, a new study surfaces to place a new expiration on vaccines —six months or three months — triggering debate and distress. Arguably, efficacy is affected by sketchy vaccine coverage across the world. But surely those who extend their arms deserve clarity — even if it means budgeting and creating a calendar for a jab every six months!

The Pricey Cost of Covid19 Testing: Data from the portal World Meter reveals that over 4.1 billion folks have taken Covid19 tests. On the basis of available figures, roughly 10 million tests are conducted every day in countries which reveal the data — India conducts over a million RTPCR tests a day. The scale of testing across the world raises questions about the inflated costs of testing. The cost of an RTPCR test ranges from ₹500 or roughly $ 8 in India, over $ 150 in the US and more elsewhere. A recent study by Lancet shows that a price tag of $ 5 per test is 'most likely to be cost-effective under a rapid transmission scenario'. Extensive testing is critical for managing the pandemic. Wouldn't cheaper testing enable public policy response to contain disruptions in the economy?

Masks and Mass Behaviour: The appearance of Omicron has got governments playing the message of 'mask-up' on a loop once again. Masks (along with social distancing) are a potent guard against infections. The primary line of defence though has been wrecked by politicians who have mocked at mask mandates. Famous for his chant of 'hands, face, space', British PM Boris Johnson has infamously starred in mask-less images violating his own call. In India, the duplicity of the political class stands unmasked in images streaming from political rallies. There are limits on the number of people at weddings and funerals, but none for political rallies whether in Bengal or Uttar Pradesh. Must politicians — and public at large — revel in endangering themselves and others? Can the political class show some contrition and correct their behaviour?

The Inflationary Consequences: The raging virus has wreaked havoc with demand and precipitated disruptions in the production and supply chains across economies. The consequence of policies cooked in the G7 balance sheets is visiting emerging economies. Mercifully, not every economy is going Turkey but developing countries can ill-afford the cost of debt and their people the rising cost of living. What US Fed Chief Jerome Powell does or doesn't do has implications for what RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das can or cannot do. As inflation reigns well above sanctified levels, its persistence presents a challenge to growth aspirations. As with the virus, inflation is a global pandemic. Do the central bankers have a grip on it and can they assure economies will not land in a high cost low growth terrain?

The management of the pandemic is but only one of the issues occupying significant global attention. There is the unravelling of geopolitical fault lines — China's expansionist agenda and Russia's dare across Ukraine. And yes, the Oxford Word of 2019, 'climate emergency' is visible in its myriad forms across the globe.

As the world travels through uncertain times, bon voyage and here is wishing you all a healthy and peaceful 2022.

GOODBYE 2021. BUT WELCOME TO WHAT?

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

YEAR-END pushes the world into introspection. There is a predictable style in which this is done. The year that is ending is dismissed as a bad one and the new year is welcomed as the harbinger of all things wonderful. To complicate things further, assessment of the year is culture-based. What American culture considers all important may be dismissed as irrelevant by those who follow Indian culture.

Indian culture? Can there be such a thing when Narendra Modi's Delhi has nothing in common with Pinarayi Vijayan's Kerala? For that matter, Basavaraj Bommai's BJP is very different from Yogi Adityanath's BJP. India is a bundle of competing cultures. The Almighty deserves thanks for that.

The list of 2021's achievements as assessed by the USA includes the first X-gender US passport and the first black American becoming the country's secretary of defence. No one is interested in these except certified Americans. But there are some other US scores that are of interest to all — initiatives such as a NASA equipment entering the Sun's atmosphere and billionaire Jeff Bezos pioneering civilians going into space.

The lay public is yet to get familiar with what may become the biggest cultural challenge of the century — metaverse. This is said to be a fictional concept that has suddenly turned all too real. Combining the real and the virtual worlds, metaverse is defined as "a whole new 3D interactive internet."

Lay columnists and lay readers may need time to reach some kind of working arrangement with 3D interactive internets and such other marvels. But they may not have much time because the magical names of the internet such as Satya Nadella, the lord of Microsoft, and Mark Zuckerberg, the god of Facebook, are full of appreciation for the wizardry of new-wave internet with 3D and more.

Scientists and up-to-date modernists are of course familiar with the possibilities of these new discoveries. Some of these possibilities are difficult to comprehend as far as ordinary folks are concerned. Earlier this year, a piece of "virtual real estate" was sold in America for nearly a million dollars. What on earth is "virtual" real estate? Obviously, it does not exist as a piece of land that you can see and walk on as you please. It exists only in a "virtual" state. That is a polite way of saying that it exists only in the sphere of imagination.

> It won't be easy for the "virtual" to settle down as reality in the world of ordinary mortals. It won't be easy for citizens to accept the virtual and the real as interchangeable elements. But in that game the losers will be the citizens

If real estate exists in an unreal condition, and if there are people ready to pay real money for the unreal, the world has gone bonkers. Either that, or columnists and other lay guys have lost the game. Will a day come when newspaper columns will have to be written in 3D interactive formats, whatever that means?

Will a world ruled by 3D formats be safer to live in than the terrifying worlds controlled by Emperor Caligula of Rome or Louis XIV of France? Caligula was a worshipper of the horses he owned. His favourite horse was given a collar studded with diamonds. Louis XIV was a disgusting guy who built a commode into his throne so that he could attend to Nature's calls even as he attended to the affairs of the state. The officials surrounding him had to suffer it all in silence.

Was James VI of Scotland any better? This was a man who had "a great aversion to water". Think of a man living without touching water. He must have been stinking like hell, but officials and subjects no doubt pretended that he smelt like a bouquet of roses.

The most eccentric royal in history was King Farouk of Egypt. He would disguise himself as a commoner and go into crowded areas of Cairo picking people's pockets. That was the occupation he loved more than anything else. He is known to have taken lessons from a professional pickpocket. This could not have been easy for Farouk because he looked like a balloon, and weighed 300 pounds. A point was reached when his corruption and incompetence could no longer be accepted by the people. A group of army leaders known as Free Officers drove him into exile and set up a popular government of Egypt under the leadership of Gamal Abdel Nasser.

It won't be easy for the "virtual" to settle down as reality in the world of ordinary mortals. It won't be easy for citizens to accept the virtual and the real as interchangeable elements. But in that game the losers will be the citizens. The present has already been hijacked by the metaverse generation. The future may be hijacked by some new version of supermetaverse. Where will salvation come from?

THE TOPPLED ICONS OF HISTORY

OPINION

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A nation's cohesive forces emanate from shared history, collective pride and common icons. In a heterogeneous country like India, with countless local histories, the freedom movement managed to create a national narrative without smothering the 'little traditions.'

This delicate mix has been able to hold the nation together as an emotional unit for several decades, despite occasional vicissitudes. Time and again these icons and events of national pride have served as effective bulwark against fissiparous tendencies. However, national icons and proud events in history seem to be fading in their influence not as a result of any natural fatigue but by strategic revision of narratives.

This agenda is self-evident on several occasions. Superimpositions and displacements take place where no reinterpretation was warranted. The liberation of Bangladesh, a crowning jewel in the modern history of India, acquired 50 years ago had made all of us who had lived through those days proud and heady. Patriotism and solidarity were palpable. The role played by the decisive political leadership of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the inspiring military acumen of the late Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw are the stuff of modern day legends.

The fiftieth year of such extraordinary heroism and historic accomplishment was reduced to a dedication of a Hindu temple in Bangladesh by the first citizen of India. Though this gesture may have layered meanings and messages, the net result is the almost total lack of enthusiasm in this country to recall those moments of glory. Regardless of the different political dispensations, the government has certain inherited ceremonial responsibilities especially in matters of well established victories in history.

> Power has the inherent weakness of imagining that it is omnipotent and can accomplish anything. Power that is unaware of this weakness is bound to flounder. No power however mighty it might be, can force the people to forget what they once cherished

The pathological inability or reluctance of a political coalition in power to recognise a leader of yesteryears for his/her accomplishments and dilute occasions of national pride to muted events with misplaced focus have far complex ramifications than what meets the eye. Moments of national glory are always few and infrequent, and stifling them is riskier and costlier than the imagined returns of orchestrated obfuscation.

The same calculated callousness was evident in the celebration of the liberation of Goa. When recalling the accomplishment of the Goan liberation, the Prime Minister chose to dwell on a hypothetical situation: if only Sardar Patel lived longer, liberation of Goa would have been done much earlier, he mused. Does such unreal and wishful thinking add anything to history? Can history be rewritten by such insinuations? The insinuation is that the liberation of Goa was delayed owing to the ineptitude of the leadership, particularly that of Nehru.

Other than making a celebratory occasion look like a lackluster event, such innuendoes achieve hardly anything. Repeated such pronouncements would, at a deeper level, steal the sheen out of shared moments of glory from national psyche. Sadly, even the heroes of the nationalist movement are assigned a new pecking order as the nation celebrates 75 years of Independence.

Democracy presupposes governments of different political orientations in power but memories of glory and national icons are sacrosanct to all. Mainly because such occasions are not only about a leader, but about the sacrifice and valour of thousands of nameless countrymen. Even a non-democratic Soviet Union under successive regimes never failed to observe May 9th of every year as the historic victory day of Soviet Union against the German occupation in 1944. Even after the splintering of the Soviet Union, the new Republics still observe it a Victory Day as the pride of victory and memory of sacrifice of their ancestors are deeply shared by successive generations.

In the life of a nation, there will always be moments when an inspired citizenry will have to stand together, burying their differences. On such occasions, a nation gets galvanised by invoking the great moments that we have stood together, fought together and willingly sacrificed much. A polity that always belittles these shared icons and moments of pride is, in fact, frittering away an invaluable asset, which once dissipated can never be reclaimed.

Power has the inherent weakness of imagining that it is omnipotent and can accomplish anything. Power that is unaware of this weakness is bound to flounder. No power however mighty it might be, can force the people to forget what they once cherished. New power centres would naturally wish to install their preferred icons in the national pantheon. They might even succeed and it cannot be faulted either. There could be gaps in the accepted narrative which should be corrected by sharing positive messages and new inputs. It might be possible to enshrine Savarkar or Shyama Prasad Mookerjee in niches they deserve. But when power assumes that repeated distortion, silences and superimpositions can displace well entrenched icons from the national psyche — they initiate a foredoomed battle. Ironically, when preeminent leaders are consciously ignored and national history around them are sought to be smudged, the nation's psyche is bruised. The unhappy echoes of ingratitude violate an inherent sense of fairness.

National heroes and shared moments of glory are the glue in a diverse democracy. It is an emotional capital to fall back upon in times of extreme stress. While democracy gets ultimately strengthened by the present disagreements among political parties, that divergence and adversarial equations have relevance only in the present. Projecting such disagreements and dislikes onto agreed and sacred chapters of history is a sure symptom of political skulduggery and acute myopia. If unchecked, we might soon encounter a situation where common icons have all been toppled while newly installed ones tumble out of their lofty niches and the nation begins to stare into a void. And that void is ominous indeed.

QUOTE CORNER

We have become so used to them (conflicts) that immense tragedies are now being passed over in silence; we risk not hearing the cry of pain and distress of so many of our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis, head of the Roman Catholic Church

We were fooled by five waves of NATO's eastward expansion. We're not threatening anyone – they came to us. It's you who should give guarantees. You. And immediately.

Vladimir Putin, Russian president

The reality on the ground is that the Taliban are now the de facto authorities. So they (the world) will have to work with them in order to reach to the Afghan people in order to provide assistance.

Hamid Karzai, former Afghanistan president

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Communal harmony in limbo

The open call for genocide against Muslims at the 'Dharma Sansad' comes as a first for Haridwar, in a peace loving state, Uttarakhand. That is totally horrendous and despicable and against the very idea of communal harmony of India. It has shaken my faith in brotherhood, *'Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai; aapas me sab bhai bhai'*. It has weakened my trust in one of the largest democracy of the world. As a Muslim from Haridwar, I have never felt so unsafe, helpless and alienated as I do today.

Abdur Rauf Qasmi, Haridwar

Parliament in turmoil

Adjourning the Rajya Sabha sine die due to disruptions, Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has lamented the conduct of Opposition MPs. Has the vice-president forgotten how the BJP, while in Opposition, had conducted itself in the Parliament? On September 7, 2012, about the regular disruptions and wash-out monsoon session of Parliament, the then leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Sushma Swaraj, had said, "Not allowing Parliament to function is also a form of democracy, like any other form". Disruption will remain a permanent feature in both the Houses, unless the unruly elements, irrespective of party affiliations, are permanently disqualified.

P G Menon, Chennai

X'mas: 'Forceful conversion'

One of the best cards got for Christmas had the words 'Let every heart prepare him room' (making room in the inn this Christmas). The pandemic apart, Christians have no room in many states of late. The Karnataka government's accusation of 'forceful conversion' is a myth and the new law could make way for modern day Herods. Syrian Christians for instance were a converted group that existed from 2,000 years and have maintained their identity till date. Aryans came to India after that. No religion can claim exclusive rights in being 'more Indian' than some others. It is a matter of faith and people of different faiths have co-existed peacefully in India for millennia. Rather than competing for 'majority' or 'minority', it would be better if each one was let alone to choose the faith of his choice. And there is plenty of room for all.

Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Northeast's green prospects

Horticulture can be a big earner for the northeastern region of the country but due to lack of finance and facilities it is far from snatching that "fruit basket of the country title" from Himachal. Northeast grows all sorts of fruits like apples, pineapples, bananas, oranges, litchis, kiwis, strawberries, plums but the region has not achieved a stage where it can export the produce. It grows fruits only enough to feed its population. Our PM in a press meet a few years ago said that Northeast can be the next fruit basket of the country but has not done enough on that front. According GI tags alone to fruits will not suffice. I would like to urge the PM to invest in horticulture in the northeast, which would bear sweet fruits for ages.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Giving Palmyra a fillip

The news item *'Palmyra leaf beats plastic to become star this X-Mas'* highlights the importance of Palmyra, the state tree of Tamil Nadu. Both people and government's awareness to foster the care of this tree is gaining momentum day by day. In fact, better focus should be given to Palmyra products which are environmentally friendly.

A Kaja Nazimudeen, Tirunelveli

Farewell 'Turbanator'

Harbhajan Singh announcing his retirement from all forms of cricket brings the curtains down on an illustrious career spanning over two decades. Fondly nicknamed the 'Turbanator' for his prowess in decimating the batting order, the off-spinner featured in 103 Tests, 236 ODIs and 28 T20s and finished with 711 scalps. His finest moment in Tests was undoubtedly the 2001 home series against Australia, where he bagged 32 wickets (most by an Indian in a three-Test series), including a hat-trick. So here's wishing him a glorious second inning!

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sanjay Jha @JhaSanjay
India has changed. It's on a slippery slope to a black hole. When history is written, period after 2014 will be considered as Dark Age

Mehbooba Mufti @MehboobaMufti
Perturbed that the policeman convicted for destroying evidence in Kathua rape case was granted bail and his jail term suspended

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
On the occasion of 'Good Governance Day', smartphone and tablet distribution campaign has been launched for 01 crore youth of UP

India has over 7L hospital beds to tackle Omicron

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

INDIA has earmarked over seven lakh hospital beds and a boosted oxygen supply in preparation for a surge in infection as the Omicron threat looms. But most health administrators and public health specialists believe that the need for hospital beds during an impending third wave may be lesser as compared to the Delta wave.

On Friday, officials said the country has an inventory of 7.2 lakh hospital beds and is better prepared for the supply of medical oxygen. They also claimed an inventory of 4.94 lakh oxygen-supported beds, 64,000 paediatric beds, 1.39 lakh ICU beds and 24,000 paediatric ICU beds. Senior health administrators added that as part of the Centre's emergency Covid-19 relief package funds, hospital resources will also be augmented through an additional 96,000 oxygen beds, 20,000 ICU beds, and 9,500 paediatric beds.

Many experts and public health specialists watching the situation fuelled by the Omicron variant in the UK and other countries, however, are hopeful that compared to the Delta wave, there may be lesser strain on healthcare infrastructure.

"What seems almost certain is that there is going to be a surge in cases, but it is also likely that most cases will be mild and may need only symptomatic treatment at home," said epidemiologist DCS Reddy, who is also a member of the ICMR's advisory group on Covid-19 epidemiology and surveillance. A large number of patients may still need hospitalisation, said Reddy, but the number will probably be within manageable limits.

His views are supported by the findings of a study released in the UK, which said Omicron cases appear to be milder, with a 20%-25% reduced chance of a hospital visit. This analysis showed evidence of "a moderate reduction" in the risk of hospitalisation associated with Omicron compared with Delta, but scientists also warned that this may be offset by the reduced efficacy of vaccines against Omicron. "Given the high transmissibility of Omicron, there remains the potential for health services facing increasing demand if Omicron cases continue to grow at the rate that it has been," one of the scientists associated with the study said.

Back in India, some public health experts warned about decisions that may not actually help the containment measures. "Public health responses in several states appear to be knee jerk and not based on evidence. Several states have announced night curfews. Now, how would this help in reducing the transmission of an airborne virus?" asked Oommen John of George Institute of Global Health.

HIGHS AND LOWS

Kerala: Test positivity rate **6.1%**

Maharashtra: Test positivity rate (TPR) **0.9%**, first Covid vaccine dose coverage **87%**, second dose coverage **56%**

Bihar: First vaccine coverage **78%**, second vaccination coverage **52%**

Mizoram: TPR **8.2%**

Punjab: First dose coverage **75%**, second dose coverage **40%**

Uttar Pradesh: First dose coverage 84%, second dose coverage **46%**

Karnataka: High new cases in last two weeks

West Bengal: TPR **1.5%**, high new cases in last two weeks

Tamil Nadu: High new cases in last two weeks; first dose coverage **85%**, second dose coverage **55%**

Jharkhand: First dose coverage 72%, second dose coverage **42%**

CENTRE SENDS TEAMS TO 10 STATES OF COVID CONCERN

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

DAYS after instructions from PM Narendra Modi, the government has deputed central teams in 10 states that are reporting either rising Covid-19 test positivity rate (TPR), surge in new cases or low vaccination coverage.

The states where the multidisciplinary teams have been sent include Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Mizoram, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Punjab.

The government said the move follows a rapid surge in cases and deaths because of Covid-19, as discussed in review meetings with states, adding that a number of Omicron cases have emerged in some states.

"It has also been observed that the pace of vaccination in these states is less than the national average," the union health ministry said. "A decision was taken to deploy multi-disciplinary central teams to 10 states, some of which are either reporting increasing number of Omicron and Covid-19 cases or slow vaccination pace, to aid the efforts of the state and district administration."

The teams will be stationed for 3-5 days and will work in the areas of contact tracing, surveillance and containment operations, Covid-19 testing and genomic surveillance, enforcement of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour.

In addition, they have also been tasked to look after the status of availability of hospital beds, sufficient logistics, including ambulance, ventilators, medical oxygen and Covid-19 vaccination.

The teams, after assessing the situation, have been asked to suggest remedial measures every evening to the ministry as well as respective state governments.

In a press meet on Friday, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan underlined that six states reporting higher Covid-19 test positivity rate and surge in cases, with highest TPR of 8.2 per cent in Mizoram, followed by Kerala with TPR 6.1 per cent. Other states with high caseload in recent weeks include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The government also said that in 11 states and UTs, the coverage of both doses of vaccination was lesser than the national average.

Punjab bomber may have had Pak-based terror unit connections

Police says Gagandeep got involved in multiple unlawful activities when in jail

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

PUNJAB Police suspects that the person who died at the explosion in Ludhiana district court on Thursday had links with Pakistan-based terror outfits, Khalistani elements, mafia and gangsters as well as drug smugglers. The deceased has been identified as Gagandeep Singh, a Punjab Police head constable who was dismissed from service for having links with narcotics peddlers.

Police also thinks Pakistan-based outfits also had a hand in the blast. "We found several leads from the spot. We found tattered clothes and a sim card, a mobile and a tattoo on the arm of the deceased. We also found that Gagandeep was to attend a trial in the court on December 24 and another trial on February 3," said Punjab Police Director General Siddharth Chattopadhyaya.

Asked if RDX was used in the blast, Chattopadhyaya said the material has been sent for forensic examination. As far as initial reports are concerned, experts do not think so but the final report is awaited. "It seems Gagandeep was alone, but one cannot say conclusively. In CCTV footage, some other people have also been noticed," said the police official.

It has been learnt preliminary investigations suggest Gagandeep wanted to create panic at the court premises. Not ruling out the involvement of Pakistan-based pro-Khalistan groups, Chattopadhyaya said police are looking at all possible angles. "Preliminary investigations suggest Gagandeep could have developed links with pro-Khalistan elements when he was in jail. They might have used him to target the court premises with the intention of disturbing peace of the state."

The DG said he was not a suicide bomber as thought initially. "Gagandeep was good with computers when he was in police. He was not a human bomb. He had gone to the toilet to fix the wire because he had to place the bomb somewhere else. He was in touch with elements of narco terror in Punjab and jails abroad."

Gagandeep was caught with 385 grams of heroin in August 2019, for which he was sentenced to prison. Of late, he was out on bail. According to his wife Jaspreet Kaur, Gagandeep left home at 9.30 am on Thursday and his mobile was switched off since. She recognised the tattoo on the arm of the dead body and also the clothes worn by him.

Sources said Gagandeep's mobile phone exploded at the time of the blast. He had a dongle through which he was accessing internet. The National Investigative Agency and Punjab Police suspect he was getting information from someone online about assembling and activating the bomb.

> **Preliminary investigations suggest Gagandeep could have developed links with pro-Khalistan elements in jail. They might have used him to target the court premises with the intention of disturbing peace**
>
> Siddharth Chattopadhyaya, Punjab Police DG

Not a suicide bomber

Punjab Police officials believe Gagandeep was not a human bomb, as was thought initially. They think he had gone to the toilet to fix wires when the bomb went off accidentally and killed him at the spot in the Ludhiana district court premises on Thursday

RTI QUERY

No change but new users can't access portal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

NEW users are not being allowed to register on the Right to Information (RTI) portal even as the Ministry of Electronics and IT claims it did not have any material information on changes made to the portal. Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), an Indian digital liberties organisation, had filed a request for information under the RTI Act with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) over the disallowance of new users to sign up on the portal.

The RTI portal also has two new pop-ups which users need to close before they can access the website and exercise their right to information, it said. "We believe in the absence of an option to sign up, every user will have to manually track each RTI request, therefore discouraging people from exercising their rights by creating unnecessary difficulties. Pop-ups may be additional barriers to the right to information, which is in contravention with the RTI Act," said IFF. It requested information on any notice issued after which the change was made including not allowing new users to register. The IFF has filed a first appeal against the reply, to seek information and file notings on the issue.

"NIC has replied no material information is available of the answering officer on the questions in the RTI application. On our request, they cited an email from the PMO stating all websites have to prominently display content relating to *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*," it added.

Tomar remark sparks fears of farm law return

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi/ Mumbai

A day after Union agriculture minister Naresh Singh Tomar said the government hasn't given up on farm reforms, the Congress on Saturday accused the Centre of hatching a conspiracy to bring back the three repealed farm laws after the next round of Assembly polls.

"We brought agriculture amendment laws to reform the sector, but some people did not like the laws. We are not disappointed; we have moved a step back and we will move forward again because farmers are the country's backbone," Tomar had said while inaugurating Agro Vision Expo in Nagpur on Friday. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari was also present on the occasion.

Reacting sharply, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the country's agriculture minister has "insulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's apology to farmers," adding that protests will start again if the Modi government takes any anti-farmer step.

Congress media incharge R S Surjewala said the party had always suspected the intent of the PM. "Perceiving defeat in the five state elections including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had apologised and repealed the three black laws in Parliament. This happened after the longest, most peaceful, Gandhian agitation for over 380 days on the borders of Delhi where over 700 farmers sacrificed their lives," Surjewala said. He pointed out that that on November 21, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra had said the three farm laws would be brought back and BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj too had made a similar statement.

The three contentious farm laws -- Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 – were passed by Parliament in September last year. After widespread protests by various farmer unions, the Centre repealed the three laws by passing the Farm Laws Repeal Act on November 29.

> **Perceiving defeat in the five state elections, PM Narendra Modi had repealed the three black laws. Even then, we suspected the intent of the PM, BJP, RSS and Modi govt** —Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress

PRIME TRIBUTE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tributes to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary, at Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

'Ailing' Mukul slip embarrasses TMC

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

TRINAMOOL Congress (TMC) leader Mukul Roy made a gaffe on Friday when he said the BJP would win the upcoming civic body elections in West Bengal with a huge majority. His statement left other functionaries of the state's ruling party led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a state of shock and disbelief.

In a video, Roy, who returned from the BJP to his old political platform after the TMC's breathtaking victory in the recent Assembly elections, was seen making the statement before the media, embarrassing his party colleagues who were standing around him.

"The BJP will secure victory with a thumping majority in the upcoming civic polls," Roy said during his visit to Bolpur in Birbhum district.

Even as others, including district president Anubrata Mondal, looked at him in disbelief, another TMC leader reminded Roy from behind that it would be the TMC, not the BJP. The 67-year-old politician, however, went on saying, "The TMC is BJP and the BJP is TMC. Isn't it?" Mondal was seen asking Roy to leave the place.

The TMC leadership, however, said they were not taking the issue seriously because of Roy's illness. "He (Roy) is ailing and that was probably the reason for his incoherent statements. His sodium and potassium levels have been fluctuating for the last few months," said a TMC leader.

This is not the first time Roy made such a statement in public. He had made the same mistake in a press conference in September. "He is not in proper health and has been a little disoriented since the death of his wife due to Covid this year," said the leader.

In November 2017, Roy, who was once TMC's second-in-command, joined the BJP and was later appointed the saffron party's national vice president. He went back to the TMC after its victory in the 2021 Assembly polls. His son has also returned to the TMC.

GURUGRAM

Jai Shri Ram in church on Xmas eve

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chandigarh

A group of right-wing activists allegedly barged into the premises of a church in Pataudi near Gurugram on the eve of Christmas and raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai.'

The latest incident comes soon after another incident where offering *namaz* in certain open spaces in Gurugram kicked up a controversy over the last few months.

At a church in Pataudi, a group of Christians had gathered for Christmas Eve prayers and carols on late Friday evening. A group of men gate crashed the church shouting slogans of 'Jai Shree Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai.' They also allegedly pushed the choir down the stage, took the mike, and made people chant slogans of 'Jai Shree Ram.'

However, police officials claimed that they had not received any complaint in this regard. Station House Officer of Pataudi Amit Kumar said, "We have not received any complaint about the alleged incident so far."

The video of the Gurugram church episode went viral on social media on Saturday. A local pastor, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that when the right wing activists entered the church, there were women and children inside. "This is an infringement of our right to pray and religion and day-by-day this kind of nuisance is increasing," he said.

TRINAMOOL TALK

'2024 Lok Sabha elections will be Modi versus Mamata'

AUTHOR, former diplomat and now national vice-president of All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC), ***Pavan K Varma*** *thinks the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will see a Modi vs Mamata battle. He says his party is trying to emerge as the 'real Congress' and not necessarily attacking the grand old party. Excerpts from an interview with* ***Rajesh Kumar Thakur****.*

There are talks that TMC is eyeing places where Congress already has a footprint and this will not help the unity in Opposition. Your view?

TMC feels it is important to have a strong Opposition in a vibrant democracy. Congress could have led the Opposition. But our assessment is Congress with its present leadership is unable to face that challenge. In the last 10 years, it has lost 90 elections. We are faced with two choices — continue to wait for Congress to reinvent itself or reinvent the Opposition space. In a democracy, no party or individual has an ordained right to lead or monopolise the Opposition space. Every party has the right to try to create a more effective Opposition. TMC has resolved to do that and it proposes to become a party with a pan-India footprint. It has authorised its chairperson to make structural changes that help us emerge as the principal Opposition party.

How do you look at the 2024 LS elections? Does the Opposition have a chance?

In a democracy, you cannot discount any possibility. In one word, 2024 will be Modi vs Mamata. We have state-specific plans and organisational vigour to execute them. Sometimes, we may even ally with whatever is left of Congress. We will have a policy of strategic flexibility and clarity of goals. With all this, along with allies incldluing NCP, DMK, Jagan Reddy and others, we will see how to mount the challenge. TMC has reinvented itself as a pan-India party. BJP's strengths are polarisation, hyper nationalism and what can be called Hindutava welfarism. But polarisation doesn't mean 80 per cent of Hindus vote for BJP.

Why is TMC going after Congress?

TMC is a breakaway faction of the original Congress party. Our aim is making TMC the real Congress to become the principal opposition in it the country. Our assessment is that large segments of the Congress are tired of being in the state of drift. They will move to an organisation which represents more robustly the ideologies of Congress. We believe Congress, or something like the Congress, is essential in India. We are not fighting the Congress. We are recreating Congress. We are not the only force in the Opposition. We have a natural set of allies who have kept BJP at bay across the country. It could be DMK in TN or Jagan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh.

There are many allies, who want a robust and pan-India alliance against BJP. The fight between Rahul Gandhi and Narendra Modi is a walkover for BJP. We are not weakening Congress. It is a migration of leaders from one party to another to strengthen the Opposition.

Full interview on www.newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

SG in Augusta case is Sushen Gupta: ED

New Delhi: The acronym SG used in emails and documents exchanged between some suspects in the `3,700 crore AgustaWestaland helicopters deal case stood for Sushen Mohan Gupta. The Enforcement Directorate said this on Friday. Gupta was arrested in 2019. The ED ncame to this conclusion after retrieving data from a pen drive given by accused-turned-approver Rajiv Saxena.

DOCTOR WINS PAGEANT

Dr Monika Chawla, a UAE-based reproductive endocrinologist and fertility specialist, is this year's Mrs India Earth winner. The sixth edition of Mrs India Earth was held in New Delhi on December 18

25 TIFFIN BOMBS RECOVERED IN A FOREST IN JHARKHAND

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	15	Mumbai	31	19
Bhopal	26	13	Panaji	31	21
Jaipur	25	12	Patna	25	10
Amritsar	18	08	Lucknow	25	09
Chennai	30	19	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	26	16	Imphal	22	06
Srinagar	05	02	Chandigarh	22	08

RESERVED FOR SUCCESS IN U.P.

Electoral history shows party which claims lion's share of SC and ST seats forms government in the politically crucial state

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

ASSEMBLY polls in the country's most politically significant state are approaching. Parties of all hues are trying to make their presence felt in pockets of strategic significance. A glance through election data from previous years reveals a trend. The reserved seats — 86 of 403 this time — more or less determine who forms the government in Uttar Pradesh.

If the performance of the political players in Assembly elections since 2002 is analysed, it emerges that whoever came to power won at least 60% of these seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (84) and Scheduled Tribes (2). No wonder that they are again doing their best to strike the appropriate caste balance in those seats.

While BJP has added the non-Jatav Scheduled Caste voters to its bank and reaped benefits in the 2014, 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 2017 Assembly elections, Samajwadi Party seems to have had a rethink after a crushing defeat in 2017. Known as a party reliant on 'M-Y' (Muslim-Yadav) to win elections, the Samajwadis have struck alliances with a number of small caste groups to throw a more robust challenge at the ruling saffron party.

Bahujan Samaj Party, on the other hand, is banking on the support of Jatav voters and trying to revive its old social engineering formula of combining 'SC-Muslim-Brahmin-Jat' voters to return to power. But it's an uphill task, considering that BSP at the moment does not enjoy the backing of prominent leaders from these castes. "The BSP thinks if any one of these caste groups offers full support, it will sail through," says professor SK Dwivedi, prominent political scientist.

The SC equation is crucial because of their significant presence in the population of UP. "Scheduled Castes form a considerable chunk of the population, about 21%. They have the numbers to make or mar the fortune of political parties who are always engaged in a fight to win this vote bank," says professor AK Mishra, another noted political scientist.

In 2002, BJP and BSP had come together to form the government but failed to meet the challenges of alliance and fell apart in 2003. SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav rushed in to fill the gap and took over as CM to run the government till 2007. In 2002, there were 89 reserved seats, of which BJP won 35 and BSP 24. Between them, they had 59 which was about 66% of the total reserved seats. In 2007, the number of reserved seats remained the same as BSP won 61 and formed the government. The script remained the same in 2012 and 2017.

For the 2017 elections, two seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribes for the first time following a Supreme Court order. Both seats were in Sonebhadra, the only tribal district of the state. Riding a strong Modi wave, BJP succeeded in 70 of the 86 reserved seats — 69 SC and one ST — thus accounting for 81.3% of the reserved seats.

Significantly, in 2017, BJP allies Apna Dal and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) won three reserved seats each. SP won just seven, BSP two and and Nirdaliya one. While Apna Dal won two SC and one ST seats, SBSP was victorious in three SC seats. So effectively, the BJP-led NDA was in power in 76 of the 86 reserved seats — 88%.

"Results of the previous four Assembly elections prove that the party that wins more than 65% of the reserved seats forms the government in Uttar Pradesh," added Mishra.

Political PULSE

Scheduled Castes form a considerable chunk of the population of Uttar Pradesh, about 21%. They have the numbers to make or mar the fortune of political parties who are always engaged in a fight to win this vote bank

AK Mishra, political scientist

Battle to win numbers

SC equation is crucial because of their sizeable numbers in the population of Uttar Pradesh

2002 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
TOTAL SEATS: 403 | RESERVED SEATS: 89
SEATS WON: BSP 24, SP 18, BJP 35, Cong +others 12
BJP-BSP WINNING PERCENTAGE: 66.2%
BJP-BSP formed coalition government with **186 SEATS** (BSP: 98; BJP: 88)

2007 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
TOTAL SEATS: 403 | RESERVED SEATS: 89
SEATS WON: SP 13, BJP 7, BSP 62, Cong +others 7
BSP WINNING PERCENTAGE: 69.66%
BSP formed government with **206 SEATS** (BSP: 98; BJP: 88)

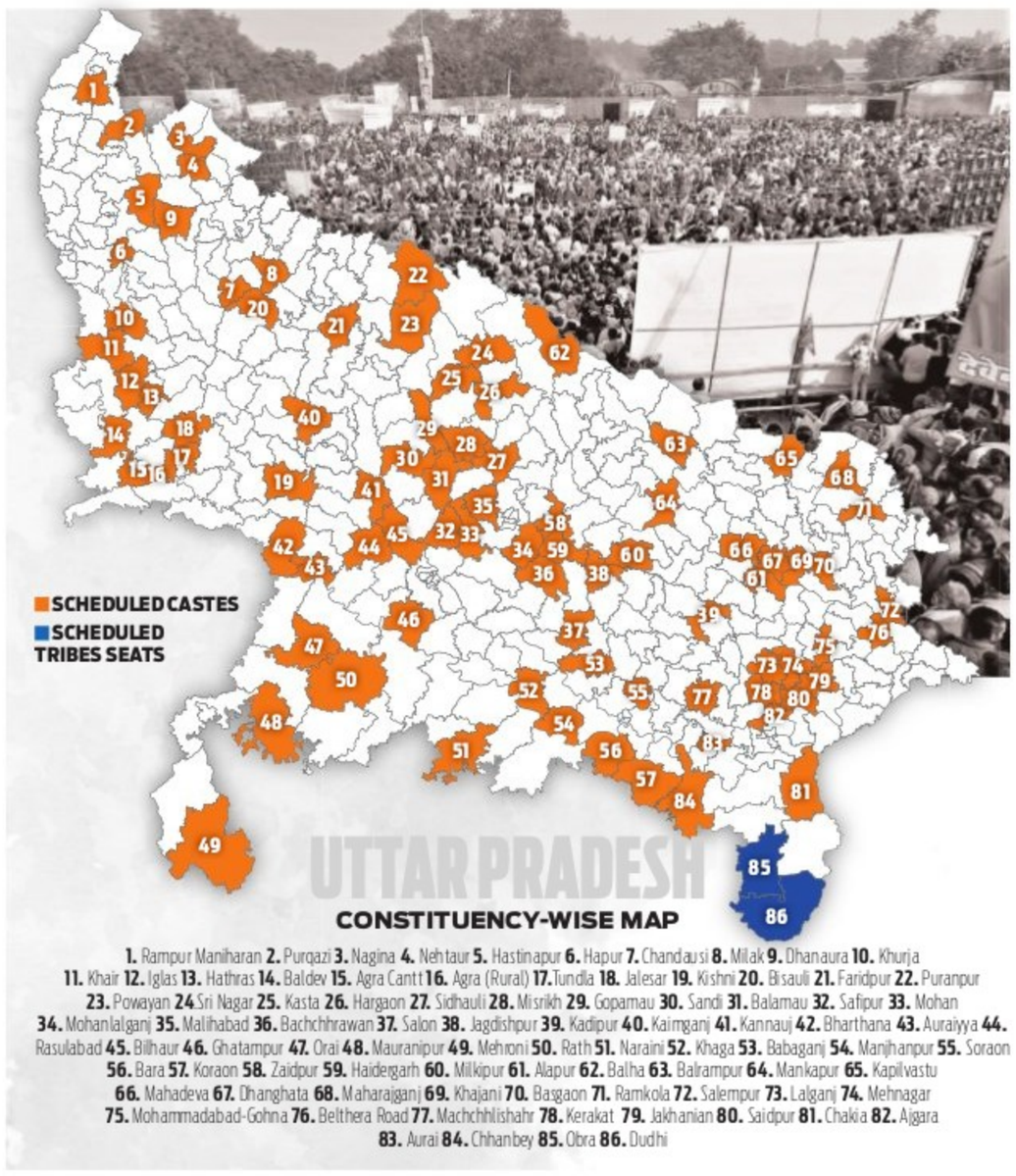
21% Total Scheduled Castes

0.57% Total Scheduled Tribes

86* Reserved seats in Uttar Pradesh
*RESERVED SEATS IN 2017 POLLS

2012 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
TOTAL SEATS: 403 | RESERVED SEATS: 85
SEATS WON: SP 58, BSP 15, BJP 3, Cong +others 9
SP WINNING PERCENTAGE: 68.2%
SP won the elections winning **224 SEATS**

2017 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
TOTAL SEATS: 403 | RESERVED SEATS: 86 (84 SC AND 2 ST)
SEATS WON: SP 7, BJP+allies 76, BSP 2, Cong +others 1
BJP+ WINNING PERCENTAGE: 88.3%
BJP+ formed government with **325 SEATS**



CONSTITUENCY-WISE MAP

1. Rampur Maniharan 2. Purqazi 3. Nagina 4. Nehtaur 5. Hastinapur 6. Hapur 7. Chandausi 8. Milak 9. Dhanaura 10. Khurja 11. Khair 12. Iglas 13. Hathras 14. Baldev 15. Agra Cantt 16. Agra (Rural) 17. Tundla 18. Jalesar 19. Kishni 20. Bisauli 21. Faridpur 22. Puranpur 23. Powayan 24. Sri Nagar 25. Kasta 26. Hargaon 27. Sidhauli 28. Misrikh 29. Gopamau 30. Sandi 31. Balamau 32. Safipur 33. Mohan 34. Mohanlalganj 35. Malihabad 36. Bachchhrawan 37. Salon 38. Jagdishpur 39. Kadipur 40. Kaimganj 41. Kannauj 42. Bharthana 43. Auraiyya 44. Rasulabad 45. Bilhaur 46. Ghatampur 47. Orai 48. Mauranipur 49. Mehroni 50. Rath 51. Naraini 52. Khaga 53. Babaganj 54. Manjhanpur 55. Soraon 56. Bara 57. Koraon 58. Zaidpur 59. Haidergarh 60. Milkipur 61. Alapur 62. Balha 63. Balrampur 64. Mankapur 65. Kapilvastu 66. Mahadeva 67. Dhanghata 68. Maharajganj 69. Khajani 70. Basgaon 71. Ramkola 72. Salempur 73. Lalganj 74. Mehnagar 75. Mohammadabad-Gohna 76. Belthera Road 77. Machchhlishahr 78. Kerakat 79. Jakhanian 80. Saidpur 81. Chakia 82. Ajgara 83. Aurai 84. Chhanbey 85. Obra 86. Dudhi

CM Yogi Adityanath gives away a tablet to a student during a programme at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Saturday | PTI

Yogi govt's massive tech drive begins, to cover 1 cr youth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

GIVING a push to Digital India campaign and to link the youth of Uttar Pradesh with it, the UP government on Saturday launched a massive drive to distribute tablet and smart phones free of cost to one crore students of undergraduate and post graduate courses in the state.

While greeting the recipients for becoming part of technology-driven way of life and exhorting the youth to contribute to nation-building and making Uttar Pradesh top the list of developed states, CM Yogi Adityanath said the real worth of technology was realised during the pandemic.

"The importance of technology was felt during the pandemic. Children did not have the facility for pursuing online education and attend classes in dearth of means. It was then that we decided to connect at least one crore youth of the state with technology by distributing tablet and smartphones," he said.

In all, 40,000 tablets and 60,000 smart phones were distributed among the youth on Saturday.

While addressing a huge gathering at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium, the CM laced his speech with narratives suiting to the atmosphere of Assembly elections next year. He also claimed the rate of unemployment had come down from 18 per cent in 2017 to 4 per cent in 2021 in the state.

EXPRESS READ

JD-U, BJP tie-up in UP

Patna: Putting an end to speculations, Janata Dal United (JD-U) has decided to contest the upcoming UP polls in alliance with BJP. Announcing the decision, JD-U national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh said the party has submitted a list of preferred seats to the BJP. Singh, however, didn't disclose the number of seats the party has proposed to fight. "I can only say the BJP has agreed to contest the UP polls in alliance with the JD-U. The JD-U has authorised union minister and party leader RCP Singh to talk to the BJP over seat-sharing formula," he said. ENS

NO ARRESTS YET IN HATE SPEECH CASE; EXPERTS DISAGREE WITH POLICE

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

NO arrests have been made so far in connection with the Haridwar hate speech incident even though the state police have registered a case. When contacted, police officials said an investigation is already on. "A case has been registered and the investigation is on. We can't make arrests right away. Procedure will be followed as per the law," said a senior police official.

However, legal experts said arrests can be made in such cases. Dr Kartikey Hari Gupta, a law practitioner in the Supreme Court and the Uttarakhand HC, said: "Arrests can be made in the case where section 153 A of the IPC has sheen slapped though the police have to serve a notice of appearance. And if the official is not satisfied, arrests can be made on several grounds."

After video clips of the 'Dharma Sansad' in Haridwar created an outrage, the Uttarakhand Police registered a case under Section 153 A (promoting enmity) of the IPC on December 23. The clips showed participants at the event making anti-minority comments and calling for violence.

Avatar Singh Rawat, a senior advocate in the Supreme Court, said, "The police can make arrests in the matter. It's just that they are no doing it but the law permits it with conditions."

Meanwhile, Yati Narsinghananda, convener of the 'Dharma Sansad' said he is not denying what he said. "I do not deny what I said in the Sansad and that is the truth of these times. Such congregations have happened in the past too but this time it is due to the upcoming polls that saints are being defamed."

TMC, AIMIM leaders lodge complaints

Saket Gokhale of TMC and Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM have filed separate complaints at Jwalapur police station in Haridwar over the hate speech

EC to meet health secy, discuss state polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMID concern over the new Omicron variant, the Election Commission will meet the Union health secretary on Monday to discuss holding elections in five states. Earlier this week, an Allahabad High Court judge requested for a ban on political rallies and public meetings of political parties due to Omicron. He also asked authorities to consider postponing the upcoming Uttar Pradesh polls.

The Election Commission team is likely to visit Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday to take stock of poll preparedness.

A high-level team comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey and other senior officers, will review election preparations in meetings with UP officers from Tuesday to Thursday.

The EC team will also meet top Uttar Pradesh government officials, including from the health department. Responding to a query in the backdrop of the Allahabad High Court observations, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Friday said: "I will be visiting UP next week. An appropriate decision as required by the situation will be taken after we review it."

Minister meets Dhami, BJP gives in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun/New Delhi

AFTER keeping the BJP leadership in poll-bound Uttarakhand guessing over his "resignation" for almost 24 hours, cabinet minister Harak Singh Rawat met Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at his official residence on Saturday evening. Sources said the ruling party is likely to give in to his demands. The sources said the state government has agreed to allocate ₹25 crore for a medical college in Kotdwar as demanded by the forest minister.

"The minister also discussed tickets for his son and daughter-in-law in the election. State BJP president Madan Kaushik was also present at the meeting. Most likely, the party and the government will give in to his demands," said the source in the government.

Rawat on Friday announced that he would resign from the cabinet. Rumours of him joining Congress were also circulated. Rawat had left a cabinet meeting on Friday evening and announced to resign. "Until budget for a medical college in Kotdwar is sanctioned by the state government, I am not going to budge. They say ₹5 crore has been allocated for the medical college, but with that amount only the boundary of such an institution can be constructed," he said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Dhami termed the issue a "domestic matter".

Cong for 'course correction'

A day after he was asked to lead the Congress campaign in the state following his cryptic tweets, former CM Harish Rawat said "course correction" was necessary to win the election, even as he engaged in a slugfest with the fellow leader and MP Manish Tewari. "I have always been singing the motto of *kadam kadam milaye ja, Congress ke geet gaye ja*. But I also played drums this time along with singing this song. There was course correction necessary as an election strategy to win it."

Former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh and Tewari had tweeted about growing troubles in the Congress.

Big win at 12th National Taekwondo Championship

The 12th National Taekwondo Championship being organised by the Uttarakhand Sports Taekwondo Association concluded on December 21 at Maharana Pratap Sports College. The Uttarakhand team won the overall trophy by winning a total of 17 gold, 15 silver and 23 bronze medals. The Madhya Pradesh team bagged the runners-up trophy by winning a total of 13 gold, 9 silver and 3 bronze medals. The medals were presented by the chairman of Uttarakhand Sports Taekwondo Association Dr S Farooq and acting president (UKSTA) Raunak Jain, among others.

DEHRADUN DIARY

VINEET UPADHYAY
Our correspondent in Dehradun
vineet.upadhyay@newindianexpress.com

Gay couple to get police protection

The Uttarakhand High Court has directed the state police to provide protection to a gay couple from Udham Singh Nagar district. Legal experts say this might be the first such case in the history of Uttarakhand when two men have approached the court citing threat to their lives because they are in love with each other. Vikas Anand, counsel for the couple told TNIE, "The court has directed the police to provide the required protection to the couple. They are apprehensive about how their families will react. This is probably the first such case in legal history of Uttarakhand till date." The application was filed on December 15 while the HC bench issued directions to the police on December 16. The men have not married yet, told their counsel.

Biodiversity gallery opens in Nainital dist

Uttarakhand's first biodiversity gallery was inaugurated on December 17 at Haldwani in Nainital district. Established with Japanese funding, the gallery showcases lesser known aspects of the rich biodiversity of the hill state. Sanjiv Chaturvedi, chief conservator of forests (Research), said only a few species out of the rich biodiversity of the state are currently known in the public domain and the gallery is an attempt to plug that gap. The main feature of the biodiversity gallery is depiction of 101 icons of state's biodiversity showing threat status and information about their habitat and ecological role.

IIT-R, CRRI to promote quality workforce

Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee has signed an MoU with the CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), New Delhi to form a nucleus for promoting excellent quality manpower in the fields of engineering, technology and science with special emphasis on road and transportation sector. The MoU emphasises collaboration between the two institutes for enhancing the availability of highly qualified manpower in the sector within the country. "Sharing of expertise and resources is a key feature of this mutually beneficial partnership," said Ajit K Chaturvedi, director of the IIT-Roorkee.

THIRTY
years since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced resignation marking end of USSR

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	1	-9	HR	Los Angeles	13	6	SNY
Colombo	29	21	TDS	Melbourne	22	12	LR
Dhaka	27	21	TDS	Moscow	-6	-15	LR
Dubai	31	21	SNY	New York	9	0	SNY
Houston	26	22	SNY	Singapore	31	25	LC
Istanbul	15	11	SNY	Toronto	3	-3	LC
London	10	7	LC	Washington	15	3	LC

X'MAS DAY SCARE

Armed intruder arrested from Windsor Castle grounds: Police

LONDON

BRITISH police arrested a man armed with a weapon on the grounds of Windsor Castle on Saturday. Thames Valley police said the security breach took place at 8.30 am on Christmas Day. The 19-year-old from Southampton is in custody.

"The man has been arrested on suspicion of breach or trespass of a protected site and possession of an offensive weapon. He remains in custody at this time," Thames Valley Police Superintendent Rebecca Mears said. "We can confirm security processes were triggered within moments of the man entering the grounds and he did not enter any buildings."

Members of the royal family have been informed.

Queen Elizabeth II is spending the Christmas holidays at Windsor, having decided not to stay at Sandringham, the royal estate in eastern England where she traditionally spends the festive season with family.

The queen paid a touching tribute to her late husband Prince Philip in her Christmas Day message as she marked the holiday with a family gathering.

"Christmas can be hard for those who have lost loved ones. This year especially I understand why," said the Queen, who was married for 73 years.

The Queen reminisced fondly about the prince, saying his "sense of service, intellectual curiosity and capacity to squeeze fun out of any situation were irrepressible". *Agencies*

A DEADLY ESCALATION

The fatal cross-border attack marks an escalation in Yemen's long-running war

SPIKE IN TENSIONS

On Thursday — a day after the coalition targeted a Houthi military camp in Sanaa — the military alliance said it shot down a bomb-laden drone near Abha airport in the south of the kingdom, causing debris to fall nearby but leaving no casualties

And earlier this week, it targeted Sanaa airport, whose operations have largely ceased because of a Saudi-led blockade since August 2016

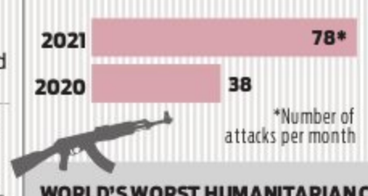
WEAPONS SEIZURE

Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia and its ally the United States have long accused Iran of supplying the Houthis with sophisticated weapons, a charge the Shiite-dominated Islamic republic denies

The US Navy said this week that it seized **1,400 AK-47** rifles and ammunition from a fishing boat it claimed was smuggling weapons from Iran to the Houthis, who are from Yemen's Zaidi Shiite minority

SHARP RISE IN ATTACKS

Earlier this week the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, reported that attacks by the Houthi rebels on Saudi Arabia have more than doubled this year from last year



BLOODY STALEMATE

Yemen's war erupted in 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthis seized Sanaa and much of the country's north. Months later, the US-backed Saudi-led coalition intervened to oust the Houthis and restore the internationally recognised government. The war has settled into a stalemate and spawned the world's worst humanitarian disaster

WORLD'S WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

More than 80 per cent of Yemen's population of about 30 million requires humanitarian assistance in what the UN says is world's worst humanitarian crisis

1,30,000 PEOPLE KILLED IN YEMEN'S CIVIL WAR

Saudi targets Yemen in major ops

Missiles fired by Houthis kill two Saudis; retaliatory strikes leave three dead in Yemen

RIYADH

THE Saudi-led coalition on Saturday launched a "large-scale" assault on Yemen after missiles fired by Iran-backed Houthi rebels killed two people in the kingdom, the first such deaths in three years.

The Houthis warned Yemen's oil-rich northern neighbour of a "painful" response if the coalition does not stop its "aggression" against the conflict-riven country.

Yemen has been wracked by civil war since 2014 pitting the internationally recognised government supported by the Saudi-led military coalition against the Houthis who control much of the north.

Tens of thousands of people have since been killed, in what the UN has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The latest violence came overnight when two people — one Saudi and the other Yemeni — were killed in the projectile attack on Jazan, said Saudi's civil defence.

A road damaged by Saudi airstrike in the Houthi-held capital Sanaa | AFP

"A military projectile fell on a commercial store on the main street, resulting in two deaths," it said, adding six Saudis and a Bangladeshi national were wounded.

Images from the official Saudi Press Agency purportedly of the aftermath of the attack showed a large crater in the ground and destroyed vehicles.

The Saudi-led coalition said shortly afterwards that it was "preparing for a large-scale military operation".

It later launched an air strike in which "three civilians including a child and a woman were killed, and six others were wounded", Yemeni medics told AFP.

The coalition will hold a news conference on Sunday to address the latest developments, the Saudi authorities said, clarifying an earlier advisory that it would be on Saturday. Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree warned Saudi Arabia of "painful operations as long as it continues its aggression and crimes".

In a statement on the Houthis' Telegram channel, he said the rebels had launched three ballistic missiles on Jazan, a southern region of the kingdom bordering Yemen.

The insurgents often launch missiles and drones into Saudi Arabia, targeting its airports and oil infrastructure.

The latest was the first in more than three years that has resulted in fatalities in the kingdom, which recorded its first death from a Houthi missile attack when a missile struck Riyadh in 2018. *AFP*

RUSSIA PULLS 10K SOLDIERS FROM UKRAINE BORDER

MOSCOW

RUSSIA announced on Saturday that more than 10,000 troops had finished month-long drills near Ukraine, amid Western accusations that Moscow was plotting an invasion of its ex-Soviet neighbour.

The defence ministry said in a statement that the drills for Southern Military District forces had taken place in a host of southern regions including Rostov, Krasnodar and Crimea, which Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014.

But the drills also took place further afield, including in Stavropol, Astrakhan, North Caucasus republics and even in Russia's Caucasus ally Armenia.

The defence ministry said the troops were returning to their permanent bases and that standby units would be readied for the New Year's holidays.

Western countries have accused Russia of massing upwards of 1,00,000 troops near Ukraine ahead of a possible winter invasion.

Ukrainian soldiers fire Javelin missiles during military exercises in Donetsk | AFP

According to Kiev's estimates, the number of Russian troops along Ukraine's borders has increased from around 93,000 troops in October to 1,04,000 now.

Russia says it is free to move its forces on its territory how it sees fit and denies that it is planning a large-scale attack.

It has presented the West with sweeping security demands, saying NATO must not admit new members and seeking to bar the United States from establishing new bases in former Soviet republics.

Tensions reached a boiling point on Wednesday when President Vladimir Putin said Russia would take "appropriate retaliatory" military steps in response to what he called the West's "aggressive stance".

But he lowered the volume the next day, saying he had seen a "positive" reaction from the United States to Russia's security proposals and said talks would take place next month.

In an interview on Friday, a senior Ukrainian security official told AFP that there is no risk of an imminent Russian invasion.

Kiev has been battling pro-Russia separatists since shortly after Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014 in a conflict that has claimed over 13,000 lives.

Pope Francis uncovers the statue of baby Jesus during the Christmas Eve mass | AFP

Pope calls for dialogue to end world's conflicts

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis prayed on Saturday for an end to the coronavirus pandemic, using his Christmas Day address to urge health care for all, vaccines for the poor and for dialogue to prevail in resolving the world's conflicts.

Amid a record-setting rise in Covid-19 cases in Italy this week, only a few thousand people flocked to a rain-soaked St Peter's Square for Francis' annual 'Urbi et Orbi' ("To the city and the world") Christmas address. Normally, the square would be packed with tens of thousands of holiday well-wishers.

At least they could gather this year. Italy's 2020 holiday lockdown forced Francis to deliver a televised address from inside the Apostolic Palace to prevent crowds from forming in the square. Although Italy this week counted more than 50,000 cases in a single day for the first time, the government has not ordered another lockdown.

The pope's Christmas Day speech gives him an opportunity to draw a global audience's attention to conflicts big and small. This year was no different. Francis lamented ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, newly flaring tensions in Ukraine and Ethiopia, and an "unprecedented crisis" in Lebanon.

"We have become so used to them (conflicts) that immense tragedies are now being passed over in silence; we risk not hearing the cry of pain and distress of so many of our brothers and sisters," he said from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica as Swiss Guards stood at attention in the square below.

Francis warned of the pandemic tendency to withdraw and isolate, urging instead dialogue to try to resolve the world conflicts. He prayed in particular for those most affected by the virus, including women and children who have suffered abuse during lockdowns. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Beijing sacks top Xinjiang official sanctioned by US

Beijing: The ruling Chinese Communist Party (CPC), headed by President Xi Jinping, has abruptly replaced its chief in the volatile Xinjiang province, Chen Quanguo, who was sanctioned by the US over alleged human rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims in the region. Chen no longer serves as Secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regional Committee of the CPC, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday. Ma Xingrui, who was the governor of Guangdong province, has been appointed as new party chief for Xinjiang. Chen has been accused by the US, the UK and the European Union of widespread human rights abuses against Uyghurs, but he is tipped for a promotion, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mrs.Devamma.D.K w/o Papanna** to bring the notice of the general public that she has intend to sell the schedule property in favour of **Mr.Gavaskar.M s/o Mr.Manikam Murugesan.**

If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Schedule Property

All the piece & parcel of immovable Property bearing **site No.05**, Old CMC Katha No.786/5/62, BBMP **New Katha Np.232/5/3, formed in** Sy.No.62 **formed by** *Maruthi Badavara Gruha Nirmanakara Seva Sanga, Maruthinagar, its belongs to Venkatachala Group Panchayathi, situated at* ***Bangalore North Taluk, Yalahanka Hobli, Yalahanka old Nagara Saba*** *ward No.16, present BBMP Kempegowda, ward No.01, Kogilu Village, 2nd* Division, Maruthinagar, now come comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore & measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.feet, bounded by: **East by:** Site No.4, **West by:** Site No.6, **North by:** 39, **South** by : Road.

H.Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P Law, No.2B, 3rd floor,
Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpura ,
Bangalore-560022.PH.NO. 7760061073

People fleeing Myanmar for Thailand due to heavy fighting between junta forces and armed militias in Myanmar's Karen State | AFP

'Woman, children among 30 shot dead by Myanmar junta'

YANGON

MYANMAR government troops rounded up villagers, some believed to be women and children, fatally shot more than 30 and set the bodies on fire, a witness and other reports said on Saturday.

The purported photos of the aftermath of the Christmas Eve massacre in eastern Mo So village, just outside Hpruso township in Kayah state where refugees were sheltering from an army offensive, spread on social media in the country, fueling outrage against the military that took power in February.

The accounts could not be independently verified. The photos showed the charred bodies of more than 30 people in three burned-out vehicles.

A villager who said he went to the scene told The Associated Press that the victims had fled the fighting between armed resistance groups and Myanmar's army near Koi Ngan village, which is just beside Mo So, on Friday. He said they were killed after they were arrested by troops while heading to refugee camps in the western part of the township.

The government has not commented on the allegations, but a report in the state-run *Myanma Alinn* daily newspaper on Saturday said that the fighting near Mo So broke out on Friday when members of ethnic guerrilla forces, known as the Karenni National Progressive Party, and those opposed to the military drove in "suspicious" vehicles and attacked security forces after refusing to stop.

The newspaper report said they included new members who were going to attend training to fight the army, and that the seven vehicles they were traveling in were destroyed in a fire. The witness who spoke to the AP said the remains were burned beyond recognition, and children's and women's clothes were found together with medical supplies and food. *AP*

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda | विजया बैंक VIJAYA BANK | देना बैंक DENA BANK | POWER OF

Regional Office - Bengaluru Central
5th Floor, Vijaya Towers, 41/2, M G Road, Trinity Circle, Bengaluru - 560001
Contact: 080-25011487, Email: recovery.blrcentral@bankofbaroda.co.in

ANNEXURE-E

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

"APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]"

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s	Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction Last Date for EM	Reserve Price EMD and Bid Increase amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection date & time
1	1. Smt. Shantha w/o Dayanand S K, Proprietor: M/s Cauvery Steel Traders, # 101, Opp. To Petrol Bunk, Magadi Main Road, Byadarahalli, Bangalore 560091 (Borrower), 1. Sri Dayananda S K s/o Krishnappa and 2. Vinay Kumar D s/o Dayanand S K # 101, Opp. To Petrol Bunk, Magadi Main Road, Byadarahalli, Bangalore 560091 (Guarantors)	**Property No 1:** All that piece and parcel of Northern Portion of property bearing Site No. 110, New Khatha No. 752, Assessment No. 147/3, 147/11 and 147/13, situated at Herohali Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk presently comes within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike having BBMP Khatha No. 110 in ward no. 72, measuring 1400 sq. ft. together with building constructed thereon, and bounded as follows: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 111, South by: Remaining portion of the same property no. 110 admeasuring 1400 sq. ft. standing in the name Smt. Shantha W/o: Dayanand S K **Property No 2:** All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 7, Khatha No. 134, Assessment no. 149, situated at Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, PID no. 072-W0321-13, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet totally measuring 1200 sq. ft together with building constructed thereon and boundaries as follows: East: Site No. 4, West: Road, North: Site No. 6, South: Site No. 8	Rs 3,06,05,538.18 (Rupees Three Crore Six Lakhs Five Thousand, Five Hundred Thirty Eight and Eighteen paisa only) as per Possession Notice dt 25.11.2019 plus interest and other expenses thereon	29.01.2022 between 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM 28.01.2022 till 06.00 PM	Property No 1 Rs 98,22,000/- Rs 9,82,200/- Rs 50,000/- Property No 2 Rs 85,05,000/- Rs 8,50,500/- Rs 50,000/-	Constructive Possession	12.01.2022 between 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM
2	1) Mrs Saritha KP, W/O Mr Ramachandran T #59, Gilgal Balaji Street 4th Cross, Behind Lakshmi Theatre Ramamurthy Nagar Bangalore-560016 (Name & address of borrower) 2) Mr Ramachandran T S/O Krishnan #59, Gilgal Balaji Street 4th Cross, Behind Lakshmi Theatre Ramamurthy Nagar Bangalore-560016 (Name & address of Co- borrower/guarantor) 3) M/S Gilgal Innovations and Technologies (India), Proprietrix : Saritha KP, No 10, Subbanna Chikanna Layout, Garudachar Palya, Whitefield Road, Mahadevapura Post, Bangalore-560048	Property bearing Site No. 59, Khata No. 90, Property No. 168/2 situated at Kowdenahalli @ Ramamurthynagar, Krishnarajpuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk comes under BBMP limits having BBMP Khata No. 59, within Ward No. 51 of BBMP Ward, presently at 4th cross Road, Balaji Street, Ramamurthynagar, Bangalore measuring East to West 30 Ft and North to South 40 Ft in all measuring 1200 sq.ft with RCC building of 9 square and bounded on the: East by : Site No. 58 West by : Site No. 60 North by : Private Property South by : Road	Rs. 1,06,47,340.69 (Rupees One Crore six lakhs Forty seven thousand Three hundred forty and paise sixty nine only) plus interest & other charges	29.01.2022 between 02:00 PM to 06.00 PM 28.01.2022 till 6.00PM	Rs 1,08,00,000/- Rs 10,80,000/- Rs 1,00,000/-	Constructive Possession	11.01.2022 between 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No. 080- 25011487 and +91-9380969285 & +91-7897366366

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 08.12.2021

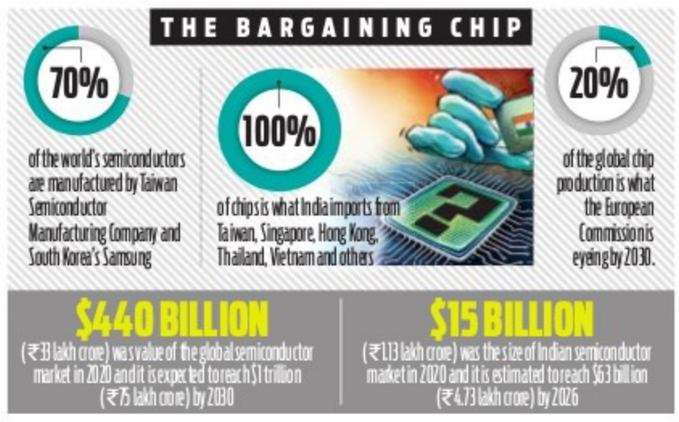
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bengaluru Central

$635.667 billion India's total foreign exchange reserves after declining by $160 million in the week to December 17, according to RBI data

Chip production: a long way to go

Govt's ₹76,000-cr incentive scheme a welcome step but not enough, say industry experts

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi


THE BARGAINING CHIP
70%
of the world's semiconductors are manufactured by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company and South Korea's Samsung
100%
of chips is what India imports from Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam and others
20%
of the global chip production is what the European Commission is eyeing by 2030.
$440 BILLION
(₹33 lakh crore) was value of the global semiconductor market in 2020 and it is expected to reach $1 trillion (₹75 lakh crore) by 2030
$15 BILLION
(₹1.13 lakh crore) was the size of Indian semiconductor market in 2020 and it is estimated to reach $63 billion (₹4.73 lakh crore) by 2026

WHEN the Covid-induced lockdown compelled every industry to shut temporarily, it disrupted the supply chain of semiconductor Industry. Termed as the most vital part for any electronic item, the shortage of semiconductors created massive problems for the electronic manufacturing industries. It dented 169 industries, including automobiles, computers, mobile phones, healthcare equipment and others.

Not only in India, the semiconductor shortage was felt across the world. Perhaps, this is the reason why the country quickly decided to become self-sufficient in making semiconductor chips, and has allocated ₹76,000 crore production-linked incentives (PLI).

The purpose is to set up over 20 semiconductor design, components manufacturing and display fabrication units in India over the next six year.

"The PLI will invite direct investment of ₹1.7 lakh crore in the next six years," said Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwani Vaishanv, while unveiling the scheme. "Under this programme, around 15-20 MSME units will be created."

The government also notified its policy to provide up to 50% of the cost for setting up two semiconductors and two display fabrication units, R&D centres, skill development centres and others.

However, the government's move failed to impress industry specialists. They have all welcomed the move but also question its implementation. Overall, it seems India has a long way to go before becoming self-sufficient in the semiconductor industry.

Importance of chip

Semiconductors is used to power a vast array of electronic devices, ranging from smartphones and cloud servers to modern cars, industrial automation, critical infrastructure and defence systems. Producing it requires a lot of components and technicalities. "Semiconductor manufacturing is a complex, capital and technology intensive process of fabricating semiconductor wafers," a government notification said.

Only a few countries have mastered its production and the rest are dependent on its import. Taiwan's TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company) and South Korea's Samsung manufacture as much as 70% of the world's semiconductors.

A developing country like India can't depend on one country for this vital product. The European Commission has unveiled a public-private semiconductor alliance to increase its share of global chip production to 20% by 2030. South Korea has also offered incentives to attract $450 billion investments by 2030.

India has emerged as a centre of semiconductor research and design but it is yet to produce the chips locally. For India, Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) and the United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC) may start its project soon. Anil Aggarwal-led Vedanta is ready to invest up to ₹ 60,000 crore to set up a sophisticated chip and glass manufacturing ecosystem. Tata group is in talks with three states to invest up to $300 million to set up a semiconductor assembly.

What numbers say

India imports 100 % of chips from Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam, so do other countries in the world. Post-pandemic, the demand went up rapidly with focus on digitalisation. As per Deloitte study, PC sales rose by more than 50% on year in early 2021 while cloud computing data center chip purchases went up by 30%.

The Indian government in its notification said that the global semiconductor market was ₹33 lakh crore in 2020 and expected to reach ₹75 lakh crore) by 2030. The Indian semiconductor market stands at ₹1.13 lakh crore in 2020 and is estimated to reach ₹4.73 lakh crore by 2026. By 2030, India's semiconductor market will be driven by wireless communications, consumer electronics and automotive electronics with 24%, 23% and 20% of the market share, respectively.

Experts claim

While experts did welcome the government's ₹76,000-crore PLI scheme, they also questioned its implementation. Anil Kadam, vice-chairman of IEEMA (Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers Association) smart grid division, said, "I know it is a very small amount for such a big project. However, if it succeeds to bring even one foreign manufacturer or establish one fab, it would be a great achievement."

Echoing the same view, vice-president of India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) Sandeep Aurora said, "It's a very good start and the amount is sufficient for now. Obviously, as we make progress, we can add more budget to it."

India has been trying to attract foreign companies to set up semiconductor manufacturing units since 2006. It waived custom duty in 2017 and sought expression of interest in 2020. However, these efforts did not receive much response. Experts urge the government to provide an environment that is conducive for doing business to attract foreign investments.

To sum up in a word, 2021 was wack!

SUNITHA NATTI

TO put it briefly, the year is closing just as it began with the economy being pulled up by its bootstraps, even as new virus mutations (then Delta variant, now Omicron) circle like vultures overhead.

If in initial months, it seemed as though the deepest horrors of the pandemic were behind us, we were soon gripped by a ferocious second wave of Covid-19 infections that left an untold trail of human tragedy, exposing the government's recklessness and the country's inadequate healthcare infrastructure.

Notwithstanding the shortcomings, the govenment used the crisis to go headlong with its welfare-versus-reforms approach for development.

As opposed to opening up the treasury, the government favoured reforms and 2021 saw some watershed moments in areas such as public procurement, besides making meaningful amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act 2008, and taxation laws.

Perhaps, one of the biggest achievements includes repealing of the retrospective tax ending years of legal disputes with multinationals like Cairn and Vodafone at international tribunals. Similarly, the changes made to the LLP Act decriminalised various offences, lowered compliances. Tweaks in IBC aids in faster resolution saving time and effort. Then there's this production linked incentive scheme rolled out to boost 14 sectors,

That said, a lack of political consensus on agriculture reforms amid a year-long farmers' protest saw the government quashing its own policies in a final showdown.

While Air India's privatisation is the undisputed lodestar of our disinvestment strategy, the deal is less buck and more whiz-bang. The pipeline of state assets such as BPCL, insurance companies and banks within this fiscal is long and with just one quarter to go, there's little hope of meeting the annual target. The ballyhooed public listing of LIC India too gained attention. The government also started unlocking infrastructure assets through its monetisation programme, of which an esstimated 15-17% accrued revenue will likely fund the ₹111 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) plan.

On the fiscal front, better than expected tax collections have put a lock on the sum of all fiscal fears.

2021 marked 30 years of deregulation of the Indian economy and as Finance Minister Niramal Sitharaman noted earlier, India needs transformational, not incremental changes. While our macros are looking good, inflation is cause of worry. Apart from the belated fuel tax cuts, there's enough room for further reductions, besides of course, supply-side interventions, which the government must think through.

EXPRESS READ

NCLAT stays CCI's penalty on UBL, others

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has imposed a stay on the orders passed by the fair trade regulator CCI slapping penalties on beer makers, including United Breweries that faces a fine of ₹751.8 cr. In an interim order, a two-member NCLAT bench directed parties, including United Breweries Ltd, to deposit 10% of the penalty amount by way of 'Fixed Deposit Receipt' within three weeks.

Govt to tweak subsidy policy for P&K fertiliser

New Delhi: The government on Saturday decided to make changes to the existing nutrient based subsidy (NBS) policy to promote domestic production of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers amid a sharp rise in global prices. A decision in this regard was taken in a meeting chaired by chemicals and fertilizers minister Mansukh Mandaviya. This move will help in utilising domestic production capacity, the ministry said.

NEWSCOPE

AFTER THE ZEE-SONY MERGER, ENTERTAINMENT IS A 3-CORNERED FIGHT

GURBIR SINGH

SOUMYADIP SINHA

THE market was expecting the merger and it finally happened. Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) and Sony Pictures Network India (SPNI), a couple of days ago, said they had signed a deal to merge their operations and assets. SPNI, a subsidiary of the $82 billion Japanese, California-based conglomerate Sony Pictures Network (SPN), and Zee, a home-grown entertainment powerhouse, will now become the second largest media group in the country, giving it the heft to challenge the reigning Disney-Star combination.

The consolidation comes at a time when OTT or streaming entertainment platforms like Netflix, Hotstar and Prime Video are increasingly threatening the broadcast business and taking away subscribers from the traditional entertainment TV channels.

For the country's media and entertainment landscape, the deal is an important signal of the growing consolidation. In a challenging market, just a handful of players survive as lateral growth after a point becomes tough. Sony as a broadcaster in India has always been a distant third behind Star and Zee, even though it kicked off in the late 1990s.

Sony has tried everything. It bought out KBC rights, and went aggressively after cricketing properties. However, it failed to achieve the audience following Star and Zee have. The takeover of Zee and the emergence of a unified programming of over 100 channels, with combined revenues of over $2 billion will be a game changer.

Sony stays the course

What's worked in favour of Sony is it has stayed the course. It has bet on the Indian market with the belief that it is tough but it will ultimately pay back. This is quite the opposite of the other international entertainment behemoth Viacom, who played around for a decade, got fed up and exited selling its interests in 2018 to its partner, the Mukesh Ambani-owned TV18 Group.

However, SPNI also knows that you cannot forever be No.3 in the race. In a niche business like entertainment, after the spoils - ad and subscriber revenue - is divided among the two big players, there is very little left. That is why it has opted to weather the hostile bid by the Invesco Group, Zee's largest shareholder. In fact, the legal battle is still far from over. If the merger finally goes through, Sony has a lot to gain.

At the turn of the century, when private TV broadcasting gained traction and film making began attracting corporate funds, there were nearly a dozen significant players. Two decades later, the high capital burn and regulations have whittled the entertainment industry down to a three-horse race. In 2014, after Mukesh Ambani took over Raghav Bahl's TV18 with its regional and entertainment network of 45 channels, the Reliance Group emerged as a significant media and entertainment player.

Then followed the big takeover of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp by Disney in 2019. In India, the Walt Disney Co, a minnow, swallowed up local No.1 Star India by the default of the latter being owned by News Corp. Disney, for over 2 decades has struggled in India, and has not made it past a couple of kids channels.

In this churn, a number of big boys we expected some action from have fallen by the wayside. The Times Group (Bennett, Coleman & Co) with their Zoom channel, and a few non-starter movie channels; and the Anil Ambani-promoted ADAG Entertainment are some of the casualties. They have not committed the deep pockets and have lacked the sharp vision required in this game. Perhaps the only ones who have survived this bloodbath are a few regional companies like the Sun Group.

Thwarting a Reliance takeover

Zee's journey to the merger has followed a different path. The promoters, the Subhash Chandra family, over-extended themselves in other businesses and had to forfeit their holdings in ZEEL they had used as collateral. Down to less than 4%, they became the target of a hostile takeover bid. The Invesco Group, the largest shareholder in ZEEL with about 18%, had been brought in by the Chandras in mid-2019 to stabilize the ship; but as has been startingly revealed in recent months, Invesco became a proxy for Reliance to oust Punit Goenka, the current MD, and take over Zee.

To save its management team and to keep a foothold in what the family so assiduously built up over three decades, patriarch Subhash Chandra has gone for the sweeter deal.

The new merged entity will have Sony infusing $1.5 billion and holding the lion's share of 51%; the Chandra family will, using ₹1,000 crore payment from Sony as a non-compete fee, will up its stake and hold about 4% with an option to raise it to 20%. Important to the Chandra family, Punit Goenka from the old guard will continue as MD.

All this is subject to regulatory approvals and Invesco's legal battle. Invesco's attempt to call an SGM and vote out Punit Goenka and his group has been thwarted by a single judge bench of the Bombay High Court. The matter is before an appeal bench and will probably be heard next month. The merger has to also run the gauntlet of the Competition Commission (CCI). But the Zee family has bought time where it is hoping it can bring Invesco, and perhaps those behind Invesco, to the table. The plot will get thicker; and exciting enough for a good pot boiler movie!

Business & Beyond

PPL launches coffee table book on birds

As a gift for all nature and bird lovers, Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has released its new coffee table book, Vivid Quills - A Tale of 100 Tails, that gives its readers a glimpse into a stunning collection of several beautiful species of native and migratory birds that are found strolling around in the PPL plant campus, Paradeep. The coffee table book was released by Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha.

IFFCO Paradip unit bags Kalinga Safety Excellence Award (Gold)-2020

IFFCO Paradip unit bagged prestigious Kalinga Safety Excellence Award (Gold)-2020 & unit head KJ Patel honoured with prestigious Kalinga Business Excellence Award - 2021 Unit Head of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, Paradip, has been honoured with prestigious "Kalinga Business Excellence Award - 2021" for the outstanding performance during Year -2021. The award was received from Suraya Narayan Patro, Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Vedanta launches high-speed billets for extrusion industry

Vedanta Aluminium Business launched high-speed billets for the global extrusion industry at a virtual event with participants from the downstream and extrusion industry. The company's global experts on billet extrusion also shared initiatives as part of its customer technical service cell for unparalleled customer experience.

OHPC Chairman gets Kalinga Excellence Award

Institute of Quality & Environment Management Services (IQEMS), Institute of Public Enterprises (IPE), Hyderabad & Odisha State Productivity Council jointly organised Odisha State Safety Conclave-2021 on December 22 in Bhubaneswar, wherein Bishnupada Sethi, IAS, Chairman, OHPC, received the Kalinga Excellence Award-2021 in the Best Corporate Governance-PSU. Dr. Prabodh Kumar Mohanty, Director (HR), OHPC received the award on his behalf.

Central Bank of India celedrates Foundation Day

Central Bank of India celebrated its 111th Foundation day on 21st Dec. 2021 across India. MV Rao, MD &CEO, Alok Srivastava, ED, Rajeev Puri, ED, and other executives of the bank paid floral tributes to the bank's founder Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala at its corporate office Nariman Point Mumbai. A bust of the bank's founder was unveiled by the MD & CEO.

CGA organises PFMS workshop

PFMS Division under office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA) organised a PFMS workshop in Chennai on December 20 to celebrate india@75 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Chief Guest for the workshop was TC AKalyani, Additional Controller General of Accounts and special guest was Reeta Harish Thakkar, Special Secretary, Finance Department, Tamil Nadu.

OPGC received Kalinga Safety Excellence Award

OPGC Ltd. received Kalinga Safety Excellence Award in the Platinum category for the performance year 2020 in recognition of best safety practices and outstanding contributions made in providing a safe workplace. The Award was given at Odisha State Safety Conclave-2021 in Bhubaneswar on Dec 22. Sudhakar Swain (Plant Manager) and Sarat Chandra Nayak, Sr. Manager (Safety), received the award from Odisha Assembly Speaker SN Patro.xx

Indian Navy Band concert in Bhubaneswar

Indian Navy Band Concert was conducted at Utkal Mandap in Bhubaneswar on 18 Dec 21 under the aegis of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Odisha) and Commanding Officer, INS Chilka. Dr Surjya Narayana Patro, Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly, presided over the function as the chief guest. Several civilian dignitaries, retired military personnel, serving officers of the Indian armed forces, state govt officials and 1971 war veterans attended the concert.

Djokovic unlikely for pre-Oz Open ATP Cup

Novak Djokovic will not play in the ATP Cup ahead of the Australian Open, where his participation is in doubt because he refuses to say if he has been vaccinated against Covid-19, his team have told Serbian newspaper *Blic*. "It is 99 per cent sure that Novak won't go to the ATP Cup. He is training here (in Belgrade)," an unnamed member of his team said.

KOHLI'S LAST FRONTIER

Having led team to wins all over, skipper eyeing first series victory on South African soil

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

AS the rest of the world was looking forward to the holidays, Virat Kohli was waiting for something else. A boxing glove emoji followed by the word 'day' followed by a cricket bat on ball on emoji followed by a loading emoji. It also had three photos, posted on his Insta as well as Twitter, of himself in a training session at Supersport Park in Centurion. It showed what Kohli was looking forward to.

For ages, successful and wise men and women have been saying how lonely life is at the top. Over the past seven years, as Kohli built an empire, the captain seemed to be an exception to the norm.

Not even when the year started — arguably Indian cricket's best ever — there were hardly any signs of cracks that warranted change. The who's who of Indian cricket were by his side. Less than twelve months later, Kohli's empire has shrunk. He is no longer the undisputed king. There is Rohit Sharma for company. What's worse even the BCCI, including its top officials, seems to be not by his side.

For every successful King, there is a treasured possession. For Kohli it is the Test team. It is the one he dreamt of and gave shape to by taking bold calls. Sometimes those decisions were not popular with fans too, but nevertheless helped him conquer uncharted territories no Indian captain has ever ventured before.

In a country where Indian batters have found the going hard, captain Virat Kohli will be determined to lead from the front

"Kohli has driven a culture within the team... of fitness, of energy and of ambition, which from the outside has been fascinating to watch," India's head coach Rahul Dravid said. "Now coming into the environment and being part of it and supporting him along the way is something I'm looking forward to. He has always improved, constantly looking to get better. He is one of those players who keeps evolving and pushing himself," Dravid told BCCI.tv.

Over the past month, all eyes have been on Kohli for the right and wrong reasons. The BCCI believes Kohli has outgrown them, and it has reacted by snatching away part of his powers.

While concerns about Kohli's batting form remain, there's hardly any doubt that he is still India's best and the only option to lead in whites. So on Sunday, when Kohli walks out for the toss, few would doubt his burning desire to become the first Indian captain to win a Test series in South Africa.

Kohli knows there is nothing that can silence the world around him than runs. In a country where Indian batters have traditionally struggled, and in a team where there are other match winners, nothing will calm and assure the dressing room than the runs Kohli makes. In 2018, he made what is arguably his best overseas Test hundred at Centurion — the only batter from both teams to score one in a series dominated by seamers.

So beyond the white noise, there is an actual job lying ahead of Kohli. The Test team now has more than a good chance of winning a series in South Africa. In the coming months, the team will undergo a transition, with several of the senior pros slowly being phased out in search of fresh legs.

Though Kohli may not have a leadership role to play in white-ball cricket, he can still be the one who can keep romance of Test cricket intact. Dravid summed up what he expects from the Test team and Kohli the captain. "With regards to the Test team, we hopefully keep improving, we want to get better as a group and Virat has played a huge role in that. As a player and leader, he's been fantastic. So certainly looking forward to see him carrying that forward, pushing and challenging this team ahead. He's one of those who really loves Test cricket, hopefully he has a great series. That will benefit the team," Dravid said.

Over to King Kohli.

Confident TN look to seal domestic double

GOMESH S @Chennai

NO Tamil Nadu batter has crossed the 300-run mark in the Vijay Hazare Trophy so far. In a tournament where the top four run-scorers have made over 400 runs, Dinesh Karthik, N Jagadeesan, M Sharukh Khan and Baba Indrajith have scored over 200 runs each and one of them is striking at 183.47. Baba Aparajith, Washington Sundar and Sai Kishore have also stepped up in the time of crisis.

As they take on Himachal Pradesh in the final on Sunday, the Tamil Nadu team management is hoping to replicate the consistent performance of the batting unit on the big day.

"We are getting one good partnership from the top five-six. Both knockouts, one batter got centuries. It shows the character, with everyone chipping in for the team. Keeping wickets in hand will help. Once a batter is set, they should see the team through," said head coach M Venkataramana to this daily.

In the bowling department, the spinners have delivered consistently for Tamil Nadu. Apart from that, skipper Vijay Shankar bowled for the first time in the tournament against Services in the semifinal, picking up four wickets. Venkatramana said that it adds up to the team's dimension. "We wanted him to bowl, so gave him that role and it will give us more confidence with the options available."

The coach was all praise for R Silambarasan, who is the joint-leading wicket taker (15) for the state along with Washington, saying that the pacer's improved fitness is helping him.

Himachal Pradesh, on the other hand, have relied on captain Rishi Dhawan, who has scored 416 runs and taken 14 wickets, and Prashant Chopra to win them matches. Four of their five wins have come while defending totals. However, Tamil Nadu are not worried about Dhawan & Co's plans as they want to stick to their methods and execute them to perfection.

"We don't want to look at how they won," the coach said before adding, "The process what we have set, I think, if we do that properly, we will turn the game our way." In 2019, Tamil Nadu finished as runners-up, losing to Karnataka in the finals of both Syed Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare Trophy. Two years later, they have won the SMAT and have a chance to complete a double.

Live on Star Sports Network from 9AM

THE ASHES

Eng ring changes for must-win tie

AFP @ Melbourne

EMBATTLED England made four changes Saturday for the crunch Boxing Day Test in a bid to keep the Ashes alive, while Australia handed experienced seamer Scott Boland a surprise debut.

Joe Root's team must win at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of an expected 70,000 fans to stay in the hunt after heavy defeats in the first two Tests at Brisbane and Adelaide and with three still to play.

Zak Crawley was recalled for the first time since March to replace struggling opener Rory Burns, despite averaging just 28.34 from his 15 Tests. Veteran Jonny Bairstow, meanwhile, will add to his 78 Tests when he takes over at number six from youngster Ollie Pope, who has failed to adapt to the Australian conditions.

England also mixed up the bowling unit again with speedster Mark Wood returning after being rested for their 275-run defeat in Adelaide, which followed a nine wicket thrashing in Brisbane.

Off-spinner Jack Leach also gets another chance after being axed for the second Test despite the Adelaide pitch having plenty in it for the slow bowlers.

WINTER SOLDIERS ON A MISSION

The Premier League's festive fixtures begin on Sunday. To be played amid rising Covid-19 cases, matches could yet be postponed. A look at few matches...

ASTON VILLA VS CHELSEA | DEC 26, 11.00 PM

The pick of the boxing day fixtures, Thomas Tuchel's side toiled recently, having won just two of their last five matches. Already six points off the top spot, the Londoners need to find their mojo soon. For Villa, the honeymoon period under new manager, Steven Gerrard has been off to a perfect start.

ARSENAL VS MANCHESTER CITY | JAN 1, 6.00 PM

The North London side shipped five against same opposition earlier this year but have been decent since then. Some good results have seen them occupy the top four spot for the time being. What they do against the champions will inform a lot about their current level.

CHELSEA VS LIVERPOOL | JAN 2, 10.00 PM

Before the Reds lose the likes of Sadio Mane and Mo Salah to the Africa Cup of Nations, this is a key fixture in London. If Liverpool win, they will emerge as clear challengers to Manchester City's throne. Already on 50 goals for the season, do not rule out a win, even if they are playing away.

OTHER BOXING DAY FIXTURES (8.30 PM UNLESS SPECIFIED)

West Ham vs Southampton, Tottenham vs Crystal Palace, Norwich City vs Arsenal, Man City vs Leicester (11.00 pm), Brighton vs Brentford (1.30 am on 27th) Live on SS Network

Senior rowing nationals in Pune from January 3

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

AROUND 300 rowers are expected to compete in the 39th Senior and 23rd Open Sprints National Rowing Championships scheduled at the Army Rowing Node (ARN) in Pune from January 3 to 9. Elite rowers, both in men and women categories, including Tokyo Olympians (Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh) will the be the part of nationals being held after a gap of more than two years. The last nationals was held in Hyderabad in December 2019.

"We are expecting a full house as we have already received entries from 23 affiliated units and expect more from a couple of remaining units," Balaji Maradappa, associate vice-president of Rowing Federation of India (RFI), told this daily.

For the second time in the country, the nationals will be held with traffic light system in place. Races will be held in four-lane marked course.

Parminder Singh, who recently won a silver medal (single sculls 2000m) on his international debut at the Asian Championships in Thailand, expects to win his first medal in the nationals when the event gets underway.

"I have competed in the nationals in the past but never won a medal. I did well in the Asian Championships and hope to repeat the show. I will be competing in the single sculls (500m and 2000m). Competition will be tough but I hope to finish on the podium," said Parminder.

Parminder Singh

For the men, the events are single sculls, double sculls, coxless pairs, coxless fours (all in 2000m and 500m). Open double sculls, coxless fours and coxed eights will be held in only 2000m for the men rowers. The first two events will be for civilians only.

For the women, single sculls, double sculls, coxless pairs and coxless fours will be held in 2000m and 500m. Double sculls mixed event (500m) and para-men single sculls (200m and 500m) will also be organised.

Given the situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event will be held in a bio-bubble like environment.

PKL: UP beat Patna with last raid of match

BENGALURU: UP Yoddha edged Patna Pirates 36-35 in the final move of the match to clinch five points in their Pro Kabaddi League contest on Saturday. Patna thought they had managed to claw their way back into a tie when they tackled Surender Gill but the UP raider ensured he got a bonus point in the process to keep that one-point lead alive.

EXPRESS READ

Basketball: Bank of Baroda reaches semifinals of State Association Cup

BENGALURU: Bank of Baroda have reached the semifinals of the State Association Cup Championship after their 99-83 win over Mlore BC on Saturday. Harish and Karthikeyan delivered the goods with 26 points each in the quarterfinal while Mlore's Ashwij 36 points went in vain. IBBC defeated Viveks SC 64-55 to reach the last four as well.

All eyes on Marcelinho as I-League kicks off

KOLKATA: All eyes would be on Brazilian star Marcelinho Leite Pereira when Rajasthan United FC make their I-League debut against RoundGlass Punjab FC at the Kalyani Stadium on Sunday. The 34-year-old, who won Golden Boot in his maiden ISL season in 2016, is one of the biggest attractions this term.

Former England captain Illingworth dies aged 89

LONDON: Ray Illingworth, former England cricket captain, has died. He was 89. He led England to a Test series victory in Australia in 1970-71, had been undergoing radiotherapy for esophageal cancer. Illingworth played 61 Tests, scoring 1,836 runs and he claimed 122 wickets. He captained England 31 times, winning 12 of those matches.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

I, **Smt. Padma K.N.,** W/o. K.R. Nanjundaiah, R/at # 40, 'Vasistalaya' 1st Main, Nagendra Block, BSK III Stage, B'lore-50, do hereby inform the General Public that I have lost the Original Possession Certificate Document P.R.No. 147/85-86 dated 28-5-1985 issued by BDA, while travelling. A lost complaint given in Police Station : 0119620/2021. If any body found the document, please Call **ME** on **9535055047** or please handover to nearest Police Station.

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E-mail: citizenbk@rediffmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Where as The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **The Citizen Co-op Bank Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned In the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on below mentioned dates.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **The Citizen Co-Op Bank Ltd., Rajajinagar, Bangalore,** for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

(1) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. K Elumalai S/o Krishnan **2. Mrs. Pushpa** W/o K Elumalai both are residing at No.78/7, 9th Cross, 15th Main, J C Nagar, Mahalakshmipura, Bangalore-560086.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.27,52,182/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Two Only) as on **09.12.2020** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 19.12.2020 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No.115 and 120, Katha No.88, Assessment Old No.88/12, New No.226, BBMP Ward No.69 of Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 28 feet, Bounded by: East: Road, West: Road, North: Site No.114 and 121, South: Site No.116 and 119.

(2) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1. Mr. Fayaz Ahmed S/o. Sri. Basheer Ahmed **2.Mrs.Nasreen Taj** W/o. Mr. Fayaz Ahmed both are residing at No. 959, 8th A Main Road, 6th Cross, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs. 29,94,666/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Six Only) as on **09.12.2020** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 19.12.2020 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property No.102, situated at 1st Phase west of Chord Road, Bengaluru, presently come under the limits of BBMP in 1st Stage, 1st Phase, WOC Road, Bengaluru with PID No.14-44-102, measuring East to West 33 feet and North to South 41+45/2 Sq. Feet totally measuring 1419 Sq.Ft. Bounded by: East: Property No.103, West: Property No.101, North: Property No.85, South: Road.

(3) Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1. Mrs. Gayathri M W/o E Balaji **2. Mr. E Balaji** S/o Elumalai both are residing at No.375, 7th Cross, 13th Main, Gokulla 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.1,00,39,465/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five Only) as on **27.08.2021** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 02.09.2021 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property bearing Old No.375, New No.8, situated at 7th Cross, 13th Main, Gokul 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Mathikere, Bengaluru with PID No.3-40-8, Bengaluru with PID No.3-40-8, measuring East to West 44 feet, North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1320 sq. ft. with Construction building thereon and bounded by the following boundaries: East : Road, West : Property No.374, North: Property No.375/A Road, South: Road.

(4) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. Lokesh H R S/o Rame Gowda **2. Mr. T R Puttaswamy** S/o Late C Rangappa both are residing at No.155, 2nd D Cross, 5th Block, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.32,41,270/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Only) as on **25.10.2021** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 27.10.2021 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No.133, Assessment No.42/5, khata No.280, situated at Laggere Village, Kempe Gowda, Layout, Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, within the limits of Laggere Sub Division BBMP Bangalore with 'B' Property New Katha No.280/2, measuring East to West 20'.00' Feet and North to South 40'.00" feet and Bounded By: East: Property No.133, West: Property No.132, North: Property No.156, South: Road.

(5) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. Shanthkumar G C S/o Chanappa G M **2. Mrs. Nirupama B M** W/o Shanthkumar G C No.1, KHM Block, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Opp. New Shanthisagar Hotel, Ganganagar, Bangalore-560032.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.85,45,702/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Two Only) as on **27.08.2021** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 25.10.2021 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property bearing Old No.19/3, New No.1/1, carved Out of Sy. No.7/2 of Gangenahalli Now situated at 3rd Cross, KHM Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore, now within the Jurisdiction of BBMP with PID No.98-106-1/1, ward No.98 (Ganganagar), with construction thereon, measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 32feet, totally measuring 1440 sq. ft. with construction thereon. Bounded By: East : Property No.3635, West : Road, North: Sridhar and Gopi's property, South: Sami Ulla's property.

(6) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mrs. Mangala C R W/o Rajanna B N **2. Mr. Rajanna B N** both are residing at No.1309, 13th Cross, West of Chord Road, Opp. Nandini Theatre, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560086.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.1,01,67,519/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Nineteen Only) as on **27.08.2021** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 02.09.2021 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : Item No.1: All that part and parcel of the property bearing No.30, Assessment No.98/2, situated at Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Ward No.69, Laggere, BBMP With PID No.98/2, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 900 sq. ft. with Construction building thereon and bounded by the following boundaries: East : Road, West: Thimmaiah Property, North: Subba Rao Gavade property, South: Road.
Item No.2: All that part and parcel of Eastern portion of the property bearing No.30, Assessment No.98/2, situated at Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Ward No.69, Laggere, BBMP With PID No.98/2, measuring East to West 15 feet, North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 450 sq. ft. with Construction building thereon and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Remaining Property, West: Property of Muniyamma, North: K E Vargise Property, South: Road.
Item No.3: All that part and parcel of the property bearing No.29, Assessment No.98/2, situated at Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Ward No.69, Laggere, BBMP With PID No.98/2, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 900 sq. ft., with Construction building thereon and bounded by the following boundaries: East: G Eliyas Property, West: Kumarans Property, North: Yathirajulu Property, South: Road.
All the 3 Item properties Situated adjacent to each other Totally measuring East to West 75 feet, North to South 30 feet with Construction Bounded on: East: Road, West: Property of Thimmaiah, North: Vargies and Other property, South: Road.

(7) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. T R Puttaswamy 2. Mrs. Shobha Puttaswamy W/o Puttaswamy both are residing at No.155, 2nd D Cross, 5th Block, Nagarbhavi, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560072.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.54,11,247/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven Only) as on **25.10.2021** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 27.10.2021 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : Schedule A: All that part and parcel of the Eastern Portion property bearing No.59, Assessment No.43, Laggere Village, Kempegowda Layout, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk at Laggere, BBMP Sub Division, and bearing B-property Register No.PRB 34/16-17, Serial No.115, New No.59/43, Bangalore-560058 and measuring East to West 15-0" feet and North to South 40-0" feet, with construction thereon and Eastern property bounded by the following: Bounded By: East: Others Property, West : Remaining Western Portion of Same Site No.59, North : Private Property, South : Road.
Schedule B: All that part and parcel of the Western Portion of the property bearing No.59, Assessment No.43, Laggere Village, Kempegowda Nagara, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk at Laggere, BBMP Sub Division, and bearing B-property Register No.PRB 33/16-17, Serial No.116, New No.59/43, Bangalore-560058 and measuring East to West 15-0" feet and North to South 40-0" feet, with construction thereon and Eastern property bounded by the following: Bounded By: East: Eastern Portion of Same Site No.59, West : Private Property, North: Private Property, South: Road.

(8) Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. Subba Reddy D S S/o Late Dodda Sonnappa V No.240/A, 1st Main Road, 2nd Stage, 3rd Block, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072 **2. Mr. Sujeev G** S/o Late Govindraj No.2440, 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070 **3. Mrs. Shilpa R** W/o Subba Reddy D S No.240/A, 1st Main Road, 2nd Stage, 3rd Block, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072 **4. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi B** W/o Sujeev G No.2440, 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.1,01,74,164/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four Only) as on **27.08.2021** and interest thereon.
Demand Notice Dated : 02.09.2021 **Possession Notice Date: 20.12.2021**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property bearing Site No.1, property No.196/1, Assessment No.23/5 & 23/10, khatha No.220, carved out of Sy. 23/5 & 23/10 of Hosahalli Gollarapalya Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently situated at 8th Cross Road, Sridevi Nagar, Hosahalli Gollarapalya, within the limits of BBMP Ward No.40 (Doddabidarakallu) Bengaluru, property bearing No.1, as per B-Khatha issued on 30.06.2019. and measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 85 feet, totally measuring 6800 sq. ft. with Construction building thereon and bounded by the following boundaries: East: 25feet Road, West: Property No.23/4, North: Remaining portion of same property, South: Property belonging to Sri Kenchappa.

Date : 20.12.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **The Citizen Co-Op Bank Ltd.**

James Webb finally strides into space

SPACE

KOUROU: The world's most powerful space telescope on Saturday blasted off into orbit, headed to an outpost 1.5 million kilometres (930,000 miles) from Earth, after several delays caused by technical hitches.

The James Webb Space Telescope, some three decades and billions of dollars in the making, left Earth enclosed in its Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou Space Centre in French Guiana. It is expected to take a month to reach its remote destination. It is expected to beam back new clues that will help scientists understand more about the origins of the Universe and Earth-like planets beyond our solar system. Named after a former NASA director, Webb follows in the footsteps of the legendary Hubble -- but intends to show humans what the Universe looked like even closer to its birth nearly 14 billion years ago. Speaking on social media, Webb project co-founder John Mather described the telescope's unprecedented sensitivity.

"#JWST can see the heat signature of a bumblebee at the distance of the Moon," he said. All that power is needed to detect the weak glow emitted billions of years ago by the very first galaxies to exist and the first stars being formed. The telescope is unequalled in size and complexity. Its mirror measures 6.5 metres (21 feet) in diameter -- three times the size of the Hubble's mirror -- and is made of 18 hexagonal sections. It is so large that it had to be folded to fit into the rocket.

That manoeuvre was laser-guided with NASA imposing strict isolation measures to limit any contact with the telescope's mirrors from particles or even human breath.

Once the rockets have carried Webb 120 kilometres, the protective nose of the craft, called a "fairing", is shed to lighten the load. To protect the delicate instrument from changes in pressure at that stage, rocket-builder Arianespace installed a custom decompression system. "Exceptional measures for an exceptional client," said an ESA official on Thursday.

EXFILE • NATURE

RESURRECTION OF THE JUDEAN DATE PALM

Come 2022, Methuselah would likely bear fruits! Named after the oldest person mentioned in the Bible, Methuselah is a breed of a tree that was lab-grown by scientists nearly 2,000 years after it went extinct. Here's the tale of the oldest seeds

CHRISTENING

Nicknamed Methuselah after Noah's grandfather, the Bible's oldest man, the Judean date palm tree sprouted back in 2005. The Judean date palm was considered important in the scriptures and the tree's fruit had universal acclaim

ROMAN LOVE

Legend has it after the Roman Empire conquered Judea in

68 BCE,

the Romans said the greatest thing about the land was its dates. Such was the craze for the Judean dates that Roman emperors used the image of the tree on their coins

THE RESURRECTION

3.5 METRES
Height of the tree

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Judean date tree, too, fell prey to climate change. Research indicates after the year 1000 CE, the climate in the region changed, becoming colder and more humid. Other studies have pointed to changes in springs in the area delivering less water, which harmed the growth of the trees

1963-1965
Excavations at Herod the Great's palace on Masada, Israel, reveals a cache of date palm seeds preserved in an ancient jar

2000
The seeds had been kept in a very dry and sheltered environment for nearly 2000 years

155 BCE-64 CE
Radiocarbon dating at the University of Zurich confirmed the seeds dated from between 155 BCE to 64 CE

2005
Dr Elaine Solowey, a botanist with the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz Ketura in Israel, manages to sprout several seeds after treating them in an ordinary solution of fertilizer and growth hormones

40
The seeds were stored at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, for 40 years

3
Seeds planted at Ketura, Israel

2011
Methuselah flowers

EXTINCT BY 500 CE

The date palms became such a rarity that many early scientists and researchers in the mid-1500s scoffed at the idea that the area could have ever produced the enormous bounty of dates that were reported by the ancients. Methuselah's variety of date palms was reportedly wiped out around 500 CE

CONTESTED VINTAGE

While Methuselah's germination in 2005 is considered the oldest seed germinated with human-assistance, there was a rival claim in 2012. However, the Russian claim is disputed in that the sprouting of 32,000-year-old arctic flower involved fruit tissue rather than a seed. The fruit tissue was stored by an arctic ground squirrel in its burrow on the tundra of northeastern Siberia and lay permanently frozen until excavated by scientists a few years ago

A TREE AGED 4,853 YEARS

Methuselah is a 4,853-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) tree growing high in the White Mountains of Inyo County in eastern California. It is recognized as the non-clonal tree with the greatest confirmed age in the world. The tree's name refers to the biblical patriarch Methuselah, who ostensibly lived to more than 900 years of age, thus synonymous with longevity

GLIMPSE INTO DEEP PAST

Methuselah was 4,789 years old when sampled (in 1957) by Edmund Schulman and Tom Harlan, with germination date of 2833 BCE. Since this tree dates back to this date, using tree rings, research shows precipitation patterns from 1983 BCE. An older pine was discovered by Harlan in 2009. According to Harlan, the tree was 5,062 years. Neither the tree nor the sample core could be located after Harlan's death in 2013

China's caseload at 4-month high as Omicron rages

Cases bubbling up despite its 'zero-tolerance' policy; ramps up testing, isolation as Winter Games approaches; Xi'an still under lockdown

COVID

BEIJING: China on Saturday reported its highest number of new coronavirus cases in four months as officials rushed to contain outbreaks in several regions, including Xi'an city where millions are still under lockdown.

China, where the coronavirus was first detected in late 2019, is on high alert for new infections as it prepares to hold the Winter Olympics in February in the capital Beijing. Of the 140 new infections, 87 were locally transmitted, according to a statement by the National Health Commission, compared to 55 a day earlier.

Most were in Xi'an, in the northwestern province of Shaanxi, where 13 million residents have been under lockdown since Thursday.

On Christmas Eve the city reported its highest daily count in a year with 75 domestic cases, according to the local health bureau Saturday.

While China has reduced cases to a minimum — thanks to a zero-Covid strategy of tight border restrictions, lengthy quarantines and targeted lockdowns — cases have been bubbling up in recent weeks. Footage from state broadcaster CCTV Saturday showed long queues outside Xi'an testing centres as officials rushed to stamp out the latest flareup.

Under strict lockdown rules, since Thursday all households in Xi'an have only been permitted to send one member outside every two days to purchase necessities. Residents need special permission from their employer or local authorities to leave the city.

Xi'an has recorded 330 locally transmitted symptomatic cases since the first case was reported on December 9 2021, few compared to outbreaks elsewhere in the world.

But some 26 Xi'an government officials have been punished for lapses in virus prevention, China's disciplinary body said Friday.

Local authorities who are deemed to have failed at controlling the virus in their region are regularly sacked or reprimanded under Beijing's strict zero-Covid approach.

A woman sings hymns after a livestreamed video of X-mas mass at Shanghai | AFP

Cases from Xi'an have so far spread to five other cities including Beijing, according to state media, fuelling fears about how quickly the virus can spread geographically across the vast country.

Over 4,500 flights were cancelled around the world by Saturday and thousands more were delayed as the highly infectious Omicron variant disrupted holiday travel, according to tracking website Flightaware. One route was thankfully not affected: Santa was on track delivering presents to children across the globe, air defense officials assured US President Joe Biden.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

A priest invites a homeless person, laying on the floor, to participate in a Christmas event with the homeless people in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Saturday | AFP

Revolutionary pill halves prostrate cancer deaths

MEDICINE

A revolutionary treatment that could halve the risk of prostate cancer deaths is being considered by the NHS. Abiraterone – which is taken in tablet form – is already used as a type of hormone therapy for men with prostate cancer that has spread to other parts of the body.

It works by stopping the production of testosterone, which helps keep the disease under control. But now a study has found the treatment is effective in patients with locally advanced prostate cancer which hasn't yet spread.

It could slash the risk of death in these patients who have the disease at an earlier stage by 50 per cent – and is now being considered for use by NHS England.

The study, published in the Lancet journal, is part of a trial which followed patients over a six-year period and was led by a team at University College London and the Institute of Cancer Research.

A total of 1,974 patients were enrolled across two arms of the trial – 988 were given the current standard treatment while the rest were given this combined with abiraterone.

Around half of those in the abiraterone group were also given another hormone therapy called enzalutamide. After six years of monitoring, the researchers found that adding abiraterone – whether alone or alongside enzalutamide – improved survival and decreased the chance of spreading.

FACT OF THE MATTER

La Palma eruption over

NATURE

Authorities on one of Spain's Canary Islands declared a volcanic eruption that started in September officially finished on Saturday following 10 days of no lava flows, seismic activity or significant sulfur dioxide emissions. But the emergency in La Palma, the most northwest island in the Atlantic Ocean archipelago, is not over due to the widespread damage the eruption caused, the director of the Canaries' volcanic emergency committee said in announcing the much-anticipated milestone. "It's not joy or satisfaction - how we can define what we feel? It's an emotional relief. And hope," Pevolca director Julio Pérez said. "Because now, we can apply ourselves and focus on reconstruction work."

Treasure trove found

HISTORY

The Israel Antiquities Authority announced Wednesday the discovery of remnants of two shipwrecks off the Mediterranean coast, replete with a sunken trove of hundreds Roman and medieval silver coins. The finds made near the ancient city of Caesarea were dated to the Roman and Mamluk periods, around 1,700 and 600 years ago, archaeologists said. They include hundreds of Roman silver and bronze coins dating to the mid-third century, as well as more than 500 silver coins from the Middle Ages. They were found during an underwater survey conducted by the IAA's Marine Archaeology Unit in the past two months, said Joseph Sharvit, head of the unit.

ANATOMY

Scientists discover there's more to jaw than meets the eye

RESEARCH

THE human body still ceases to amaze scientists who recently discovered an overlooked layer of muscle in the lower jaw.

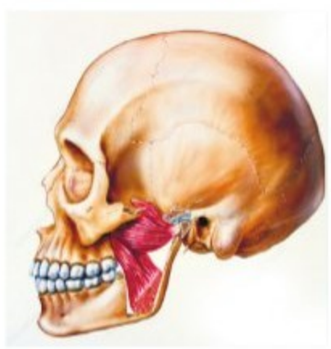
Researchers at the University of Basel in Switzerland found an additional muscle layer in the masseter muscle, which sits on the back of your cheeks and plays a major role in helping us chew. The masseter muscle was previously described as having one superficial and one deep part, but an additional, even deeper layer was found after scientists dissected human heads donated to the lab.

The new layer, which scientists have named M masseter pars coronoidea (coronoid part of the masseter), can be felt by pressing your hand against the back of your jaw while you chew.

Dr Szilvia Mezey from the Department of Biomedicine at the University of Basel, said in a statement: 'This deep section of the masseter muscle is clearly distinguishable from the two other layers in terms of its course and function.

The arrangement of the muscle fibers, she says, suggests that this layer is involved in the stabilization of the lower jaw.

It also appears to be the only part of the masseter that can pull the lower jaw backwards – that is, toward the ear.



Mezey and her team began this work with 12 human heads, which were preserved in formaldehyde after being donated to the lab. Parts of the superficial masseter were cut away, exposing the deep masseter that was also removed.

'At this point, the attachment of the temporal muscle onto the coronoid process also became clearly visible, marking the correct depth for locating the attachment of the third, deepest layer of the masseter, the pars coronoideus,' reads the study published in the journal Annals of Anatomy.

'The coronoid part of the masseter was identified by its diagonally-running fibers, which lie underneath the deep masseter, originate posteriorly from the temporal side of the zygomatic arch, and run diagonally-anteriorly towards the coronoid process of the mandible.' Earlier studies have discussed the possibility of a third muscle later in the masseter, but scientists instead, divided the region into two layers because they could not agree on a standard.

Although studies have suggested a third layer, many of the works placed it in different regions of the jaw - deeming it 'extremely inconsistent.'

Professor Jens Christoph Türp from the University Center for Dental Medicine Basel, said in a statement: 'In view of these contradictory descriptions, we wanted to examine the structure of the masseter muscle again comprehensively.

France source of ancient genes?

STUDY

A major migration into Britain from continental Europe, likely from France, about 3,000 years ago could explain a difference in ancestry between the island's northern and southern populations. The findings published in *Nature on* Wednesday come from the largest ever analysis of ancient DNA and may also help shed light on how Celtic languages spread into the British Isles. Previous research posited people living across Britain some 4,500 years ago shared ancestry. But today that has changed with southern residents showing more genetic similarities to an ancient population called European farmers. Harvard geneticist David Reich sequenced DNA samples from across England and much of continental Europe from BC 1500 to 43 AD and found influx of migrants between 3,300 to 2,800 years ago whose genetic material closely resembled ancient samples from France.